SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

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Well wheeled

Students gear up to be properly trained

See Page 3

Chanel trim

Girl says goodbye to her locks for cause

See Page 14

Derby delight

Wolves youngsters get the upper hand

See Page 52

CHIEF'S PLEDGE ON £20m CUTS

CUTS of more than £20 million over the coming year have been approved by Sandwell Council, with the authority's finance chief pledging to protect front line services.

Councillor Steve Eling also said there would be continued investment in the borough as a council tax freeze was also agreed on Monday night.

Report by Adam Grinsell

The finance chief said: "We are setting this budget against a background of what are probably the worst cuts in living memory.

"We've already had, since 2010/11, £70m worth of cuts. In the coming year we will have £22.2m of cuts, the year after Government have confirmed another £28m of cuts, taking us up to £120m.

"Things are pretty desperate, and we know that this has created a crisis level for services in many local authorities around the country."

Councillor Eling bemoaned what he called 'a very definite stench of political bias' in allocation of funds to Tory run councils, including Wokingham Borough Council where he says they are experiencing growth this coming year.

Thousands

He added: "Nevertheless we have come up with a medium term financial statement that plans out how we will achieve savings to balance that budget over the next three years."

Councillor Eling pledged that front line services would be protected as far as possible, and that investment in the borough would continue, including the building of 'thousands' of council houses.

On council tax, he said: "It pleases me to some degree to say we are going to freeze our council tax again, because it's the right thing to do for the people of Sandwell, because they are still having a difficult time.

"This is a solid budget for the people of Sandwell – there's no talk of bankruptcy here."

He said that, when added to the scrapping of Government programmes such as the Decent Homes social housing refurbishment project over the past few years, the amount actually being lost to the council is in the region of £250m. The budget was passed in a named vote by 61 to one, with the only member voting against being Langley's independent councillor Mick Davies.

Meanwhile cash-strapped authorities in other areas are now planning to turn off the lights after midnight, potentially plunging parts of the region into darkness, as they try to save money.

Dudley Council is planning to turn off lights in some parts of the borough after midnight from 2016 to save a similar amount.

In Wolverhampton and Walsall the councils are gradually replacing old street lights with low energy, modern light-emitting diode (LED) ones that cost less.

● Sanctions – See Page 4

Help for women who fear violence

WOMEN across the Black Country are to have the right to find out if their boyfriend has a secret violent past under new laws.

Clare's Law, which enables both men and women to ask police for background checks that could reveal whether they are at risk of attack or abuse from a partner, will be brought into effect this month.

It also gives potential victims a 'right to know', which allows police to disclose sensitive information about a partner even if an individual has not asked for it.

The expansion of Clare's Law nationally comes after a successful pilot in Manchester, Gwent, Wiltshire and Nottingham during which more than 400 women were given sensitive information such as details of a partner's criminal record.

Staffordshire and West Mercia Police are this week preparing for the roll out on Saturday while West Midlands hope to have it in force by the end of the month.

Staffordshire Police Chief Constable Mike Cunningham said: "Domestic abuse shatters lives."

The scheme is named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend George Appleton at her Salford home in February 2009. She was unaware of his domestic abuse history with other women.

Last of the century men

THE final member of West Bromwich Albion's 'team of the century' has died aged 89.

Right-back Stan Rickaby made 205 appearances for the club, scoring twice, in the 1950s. The England international also collected a 1954 FA Cup-winners' medal after playing in every round before missing out on the the club's victory in the final due to injury.

His death, shortly before his 90th birthday, cuts the final connection with Albion's 'team of the century' of 1953-54.

Twins set for a shot at Crufts glory

Fifteen-year-old twins Emily, left, and Katie Wyatt with their brother and sister Bordie Collie dogs Shaun and Chay

TERRIFIC terriers, brilliant boxers and super spaniels are all in town ready to battle it out to become top dog – welcome to Crufts 2014.

More than 27,000 dogs are arriving in Birmingham for the start of the canine extravaganza today in a bid to win the coveted best in show title.

From tiny toy dogs to huge Great Danes, breeders and owners will preen and brush their beloved animals ahead of the starring role on the parade floor.

Many Black Country competitors have been working all year to teach and train their pooches for the big day with contests spread across the four day event through to Sunday.

Among those are 15-year-old twins, Emily and Katy Wyatt, who live in the Hollywood area of Birmingham.

The sisters will be competing in Young Kennel Club Obedience at Crufts, with border collie brother and sister, Chay and Shaun, at the event at the Birmingham NEC.

Dogs compete in a wide range of competitions from showing and agility to obedience and heelwork to music

Sales manager Nigel Slater, aged 60, will be judging the Obedience Championship at Crufts, the pinnacle of the obedience calendar. And it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Mr Slater, from Kiniths Crescent in West Bromwich, as Kennel Club rules state a person may only judge the championship on one occasion.

But the real tension comes when the lights descend for the Best in Show final in the main arena on Sunday evening.

Kennel Club secretary Caroline Kisko said the show aims to honour man's best friend and is the highlight of the canine calender.

"Crufts is a British institution and a must see for all dog lovers," she said.

"The event hosts a vast range of exciting competitions, and is packed with information, advice and entertainment for all dog lovers."

Majority of pupils get school of choice

ALMOST three quarters of pupils in Sandwell have been given their first choice secondary school, according to figures released this week.

A total of 2,825 pupils out of 3,786 have been successful in gaining a place at their top choice of school – a total of 74.6 per cent.

The figure is slightly down from the 77 per cent last year.

The number of families gaining their second choice school was also revealed as 460, around 12.15 per cent, while there were 161 who got their third choice, 65 their fourth, 37 their fifth and 16 their sixth.

There was also a group of some 222 families who did not get any of their top six preferences for schools for their children – but that decision can be based on if parents applied for school too far away from their home address, and families are able to lodge appeals if they did get the result they wanted.

It means that according to the figures, 91 per cent of parents applying saw their children allocated a place at one of their top three preferences this year.

Last year, the council said 77 per cent of first preferences were met, with 92 per cent being allocated a place at one of their top three preferences.

On your bike for fun day

PEOPLE are being encouraged to get out for a family fun day to help raise money for a mayor's charities.

Hundreds are expected to turn out for the family fun day at Sandwell Valley Park on May 24 where they will be taking part in a challenge to see how many laps of a 5km cycle route or 1km walking route, they can complete.

To register, visit www.sandwellmayorfamilyfun.eventbrite.co.uk or email swbh.fundraising@nhs.net or call 0121 507 5196.

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Life ban for player in attack on ref

AN AMATEUR footballer who broke a referee's nose after he had sent him off has escaped an immediate jail term. Shane Davies, aged 27, attacked referee Alan Kite when he showed him the red card for hurling abuse after the official turned down a penalty appeal.

Davies had admitted assaulting Mr Kite at an earlier hearing. Sentencing had been adjourned at Wolverhampton Crown Court for psychiatric reports. His solicitor, Mr Jas Mann, acknowledged his client's behaviour on March 31 last year was 'thoroughly reprehensible'. Davies, of Hillside Road, Dudley, was given a 12 month prison sentence suspended for two years.

Father-of-three Davies, who was playing for Malt Shovel Athletic against Ocker Hill in the Dudley and Cradley Heath Football League match, was sent off by Mr Kite for using foul language. He then struck Mr Kite causing a broken nose.

An FA spokesman said Davies, already serving a ban for assaulting a rival player in a previous game, was now banned from football for life.

Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting, said the incident happened at a match at King George V Park, Stourbridge, when Mr Kite turned down a second penalty appeal.

Mr Jas Mann, defending, said: "He has been extremely candid in the report, which acknowledges that this young man has underlying problems. People who play sport and watch sport are not entitled to behave in this way."

Judge Helen Hughes handed him a suspended sentence and told him to complete an anger management programme. He was told to pay £500 compensation to Mr Kite, £535 costs and a £100 victim surcharge.

Parents kick up stink about smell at school

ENVIRONMENTAL health officers were called to a school in Oldbury after parents complained about a 'horrible' smell.

Officers from Sandwell Council's environmental health team investigated Langley Primary School in Titford Road. The move came after parents and other family members had complained about the stench, fearing it may have been caused by rats.

But a day-long investigation discovered the problem actually centred on the school's drainage system following heavy rain.

Maureen Smith, a grandmother of a pupil at the school, said she believed rats were to blame because the smell was so bad.

"The smell is everywhere in the school, it's in all the classrooms and even the main hall.

"It's really horrible, we are all very concerned about the children's health. They are having to breathe in the air every day, " said Mrs Smith who lives in St Michael's Crescent, Oldbury.

But following a thorough inspection, environmental health officers assured the school that the smell posed no health risk to children or staff.

Headteacher Dr Tony James met with parents after the investigation to discuss the issues and said the school was working to remove the odour from the site. He said: "We have investigated fully the concerns about reports of an odour at the school.

"There is no question of there being a rodent infestation. The odour is a result of the unusual amount of rain that has fallen. The school has a drain that avoids the school flooding, but with the water level rising so much the ground has become soaked. This is the cause of the smell. I have arranged that all the drains are cleaned out immediately."

Relief for driver after car tracked

A RELIEVED driver has been reunited with her stolen car thanks to quick thinking officers – and her mobile phone.

The 57-year-old driver had left her car unlocked with the keys in the ignition when visiting a house in Walmley, Sutton Coldfield.

Within seconds two opportunist thieves were driving off in her Mercedes A Class.

But unknown to the fleeing thieves, officers tracked the vehicle's movements using the driver's mobile phone which had also been stolen along with the car.

Within an hour officers had tracked the abandoned vehicle to Oakfield Road in Erdington. The owner's handbag and phone were still inside and returned.

Inspector Kevin Borg, from Birmingham North local policing unit, said: "The woman heard the car drive off and instinctively tried to stop the thieves in their tracks. She managed to open the passenger door but this was pulled shut causing her lose to her footing. She was incredibly lucky and the outcome could have been much worse."

Girls in a spin after their wins

Delighted dancers from the Livingstone Academy of Dance in Wednesbury

TALENTED dancers from an academy are celebrating after wowing the judges in two prestigious competitions and winning top accolades. Members of Livingstone Academy of Dance, in Wednesbury, beat off tough competition at the events.

Georgia Curtis, 16, won the IDTA Theatre Craft senior scholarship at the International Theatre Dance Awards which were held in Manchester. Dancers from across the entire country took part in the competition with Georgia taking the top prize and £250. Sisters Remy and Macy Evans, aged 14 and 13, who are also members of the academy received a special commendation at the event. And in the separate Theatre Dance Council competition, held at the Landau Forte Academy in Tamworth, 14-year-old Taela Yeomans-Brown was awarded the Staffordshire Senior Ballet Championship.

Fellow member Chloe Barrett, 16, won the Senior Modern Championship.

Folk are ready for new night at library

A REGULAR folk night has been launched at a Sandwell library.

Wednesbury Library will be opening its doors to singers and poets from across the Black Country, and there will be a changed line-up each night.

June Holyhead, senior supervisor at the library, is keen to develop a whole range of events and is looking forward to the evening.

She said: "After the success of our Christmas Songs evening, people have shown an appetite for live acoustic entertainment so this is an exciting opportunity for us."

The launch event was yesterday, Wednesday, March 5. The folk night is organised by Tipton-born Brendan Hawthorne, who is a poet and playwright. The library will also be hosting a Songs from the War Evening on Tuesday, April 29, which will feature live music and modern interpretation of familiar songs as well as traditional renditions.

For more details contact Wednesbury Library on 0121 556 0351. If you are interested in performing acoustic music or spoken word, contact Mr Hawthorne on 07970 441110.

School steps nearer plan

A PRIMARY school is one step closer to relocating to larger premises. Plans that would see St Hubert's Primary School in Oldbury moving to a vacant former high school have been given the seal of approval by Sandwell Council's finance boss Councillor Steve Eling.

Thanks to a recent baby boom, it is hoped that the school could move to the former Langley High School and Oldbury Academy site in Moat Road.

Along with the new school building itself, there would be car parking and external play areas, and access to adjacent playing fields.

Learning boost

A GROUP offering retired and semi-retired people the chance to continue learning has found a new permanent home. The next monthly meeting of Sandwell University of the Third Age will be at its new home, West Bromwich Town Hall, on Monday from 2pm-3.30pm.

As seen on BBC the big build

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Opening of River Island at shops site

RIVER Island is the latest high street name to announce it is opening a new store at West Bromwich's New Square Shopping Centre.

The clothing company will open a new 6,000 sq ft store on Saturday. It is not yet clear how many new jobs the move will create. The clothes chain will join other high street favourites including H&M, Outfit, Next, Bank and Primark.

The centre also boasts eateries including Greggs, Harvester, Real China, Nandos and Prezzo, and an Odeon Cinema.

Steve Burr, New Square centre manager, said: "We are thrilled to welcome River Island to New Square. They have a very loyal customer base that has been eager to see the retailer return to the complex.."

The new store will be open between 9am and 8pm Monday to Friday, 9am until 1pm on Saturdays and 10.30am until 4.30pm on Sundays.

The centre was recently praised by Ninder Johal, vice president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce who said that the complex had a wider positive impact on the rest of West Bromwich.

Head seeking run sponsors

A POPULAR headteacher has re-appealed for sponsors for a 10km run in aid of pupils at his special school, with just two weeks until he competes. Gordon Phillips, headteacher of The Meadows Sports College in Oldbury, does a 6.3 mile-run every year to raise funds.

Although they range from aged 11 to19, the pupils' developmental age is from around three months to five years old.

To ask for a sponsor form, call 0121 569 7080 or visit www.themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk/please-sponsor-our-principal-today-and-help-us-buy-a-sensor-mat-for-12k/.

Broadband bid

BUSINESSES are being urged to raise their views on plans to install high speed broadband across the Black Country. Bosses want 95 per cent of the region to have high speed broadband by 2017. To take part visit www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/place/broadband-plan

Digital autopsy centre plan is unveiled

A NEW autopsy centre that employs the latest medical scanning technology will be built in West Bromwich, under plans.

The proposed centre, which would be based at Sandwell Valley Crematorium, would be one of only three centres of its kind in the country.

It uses a CT scanner and special software to look inside the human body and find the cause of death without the need for a scalpel. The non-invasive process is designed to make autopsies less upsetting for relatives and speedier than a traditional post mortem. It would allow the body to be released for burial or cremation sooner.

Applicants iGene London Ltd have submitted the scheme to Sandwell Council.

They were behind the country's first £3m digital autopsy centre in Sheffield.

In a letter to the council's planning department the company said: "The new facility provided will be ground-breaking in the medical field and will add to the programme of similar facilities across the UK going forward." The centre would create five new support staff positions and would be used by pathologists. Under the proposals, the centre will be based in vacant offices at the crematorium in Newton Road and will see the interior completely transformed to make way for the CT scanning equipment and a training room.

iGene aims to have 18 centres across England and Wales open, by the end of 2015, with the eventual creation of up to 250 highly-skilled jobs across the country.

The plans have been submitted to Sandwell Council, as planning bosses discussed a £388,000 revamp of the crematorium, which will give families the chance to hold wakes at the site following funerals.

Approval of the plans was adjourned at a meeting last week, to allow members to complete a site visit to get a better idea of where the complex will be sited.

If approved, the site will allow groups of up to 100 mourners to be catered for at the £3.25 million Sandwell Valley Crematorium in West Bromwich.

The expansion will also see the creation of two new jobs as well as an extra 22 parking spaces at the site in Newton Road.

Sandwell tops the league for reducing re-offending

SANDWELL has been named the best local authority in the country at reducing re-offending, according to a new government report.

Bosses at Sandwell Probation service are celebrating after coming top in the list of local authorities in England and Wales under new figures that look at re-offending between October 1, 2012 and September 31, 2013.

by Tom Mason

The latest data shows that, out of the 4,631 people dealt with by Sandwell probation team during the 12 month period, 232 went on to re-offend, which meant that the borough had a re-offending rate that is 29.4 per cent better than the Government's predicted rate, which are based upon baseline figures from 2007/2008.

Dedicated

Head of Sandwell Probation, Jane Connelly, said: "I feel so proud that at such a difficult time of change for the probation service, our staff are still able to deliver such tremendous results. Sandwell Probation is full of dedicated people who are committed to assisting those who have offended to make positive changes that are required to improve public safety. All Sandwell employees are a credit to the Probation Trust and to the community they serve."

Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands visited the probation team in Sandwell last Thursday to congratulate them. He said: "The probation service has really made a big difference and helped prevent hundreds more people becoming victims and help us save thousands of pounds.

"It's brilliant to see that Dudley and now Sandwell have been named top in the country for reducing re-offending."

He said the success had been down to the integrated offender management system established by the probation team at Wolverhampton, but used across the West Midlands that was helping the service keep offenders out of trouble.

The same report showed that Wolverhampton came sixth and Dudley seventh in the government chart, with re-offending rates 19.9 per cent and 19.6 per cent better than the baseline respectively. Walsall came seventieth in the table of 174 local authorities included with a rate of 16.1 per cent.

Focus on top musicians

A PHOTOGRAPHIC exhibition of some of the world's biggest bands and artists playing in the West Midlands will be going on display next month.

Central Library West Bromwich will be presenting the display, photographed by Jim Simpson, as part of Big Bear Records' 45th anniversary, from this Saturday to March 29. For more information contact Central Library West Bromwich on 0121 569 4911.

Samantha Blount with pupils Aryan Rolia, Bethany Jackman and Jagveer Sandhu

Gearing up to be properly trained

A PRIMARY school is doing its utmost to unearth the next Sir Chris Hoy and Victoria Pendleton by investing in its cycling programme.

Rounds Green Primary School in Oldbury has spent around £2,500 on 14 new bikes and training for its teachers to get more children trained on the Bikeability cycling proficiency course.

Engineers from Halfords in Oldbury also came to set up the bikes and give a talk to pupils on how to use them properly. And the school, on Brades Road, now plans to spend the same amount of money over the next two years to buy more bikes so it can involve pupils of all ages.

It is also hoped staff from Halfords, on Birchfield Lane, will be on hand to give more help and advice. Headteacher Dr Sarah Batstone said: "Cycling is a great activity, the UK is good at it, and it's something people can do to keep fit and active.We bought two staff bikes and 12 for the children as a starter kit, as we plan to have more."

The money being spent is granted to the school in the Government's Sport Premium scheme.

NEWS in brief

Call for groups' help on funding

TEAM members at a high street store are looking to give a helping hand to community groups and charities which need extra support.

Staff at Wilko, on West Bromwich High Street, are appealing for applications for donations from the store's Helping Hands budget.

Those living in the town and the surrounding area can apply and forms can be collected from the store and once completed, should be returned to the store's help desk.

Extra time for builders' yard

A BUILDING supplies company has been granted extra time to use a piece of land for storage near to a multi-million pound regeneration scheme.

JK Building Supplies has been given an extra 12 months by Sandwell Council planning chiefs to continue to store bricks and blocks at its site on Overend Street in West Bromwich. The site is opposite a plot of land where 63 new homes are being built under a regeneration scheme. The first families moved in there last July.

Inquest into death of woman opened

AN inquest has been opened into the death of a 29-year-old woman who was found dead at home.

Joanne Kilby of Madison Avenue, Brierley Hill, was found at her home by her former partner on February 23.

Smethwick Coroners Court heard the bank clerk had been suffering from depression after recently ending her relationship.

Three are hurt in two-car collision

THREE people were hurt in a two-car crash in Old Hill. The incident happened at just after 7.30am on Monday at Station Road, outside Old Hill railway station, partially blocking the street for around an hour and a half.

The police and two ambulances attended. No-one needed to be taken to hospital.

Building on fire

AN outbuilding at a disused quarry was set alight in Rowley Regis. Firefighters were called to the site in Tippity Green at around 5.30pm on Saturday. Part of the building was damaged at the site.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THIS is not only the quote of the week but possibly of the century. The stand-in prime minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk tells his people: "We are on the brink of a disaster and this is the government of political suiciders! So welcome to hell." Now, that's what I call an election promise.

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MEN and women are not always interested in the same things. Most football fans are male. A friend who attended an evening with "Psychic Sally" Morgan reports only a handful of blokes in a theatre packed with women. If the sexes have different leisure interests, why should women have the same career interests as men, especially when the career in question is notoriously laddish and aggressive? There are very few female stand-up comedians, yet the BBC has announced an end to all-male comedy panel shows. Dara O Briain, host of Mock the Week (BBC2) warns that female panellists may come to be regarded as "the token woman." Just like politics.

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A FRIEND reports that not all visitors are impressed with Birmingham's new £200 million library. As he climbed the stark staircase with its white walls and strip lighting, he heard one of a group of lads complain: "This is boring, innit? It's like being back in prison."

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WHAT makes a middle-aged father of four children truly happy? Time with the kids? A relaxing stroll with his wife? Seeing the new baby take its first step? Nah. Piers Morgan declared in a column two weeks ago: "I'm never happier than when bombing down Sunset Boulevard from my Beverly Hills home in my Aston Martin and Prada shades." This, from a man of 48. Morgan plumbs extraordinary depths of shallowness. His weekly dispatches from LA are an endless list of celebrities he's met, swanky restaurants he's dined in and beautiful women he has allegedly charmed. Now it's falling apart. His chat show with CNN is to be axed amid dismal ratings. For a man who adores being among the rich and famous, the future looks dull.

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OUR new gravel drive, laid only a few days ago, has been turned into a lunar landscape of craters by badgers digging for grubs. The badgers moved into the nearest wood at about the time we moved into Chateau Rhodes, 30 years ago this summer. As the badgers have prospered, the crunchy, delicious hedgehogs have vanished.

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I NEVER thought I'd get nostalgic for the 1980s but a rare showing at the weekend of the John Cleese comedy Clockwise (ITV3) took us back to 1986 and reminded us how much life has changed, sometimes for the worse. Back then we had some truly awful cars (remember the Austin 1100?) but glorious open roads. We had disgusting, vandalised phone boxes but everybody was much slimmer. I interviewed Cleese at the launch of Clockwise. All went well until I mentioned Monty Python's Life of Brian. "Ah, the cleverest thing we ever did," beamed Cleese. To the dismay of the PR people, we spent the rest of the interview chatting about Life of Brian, not Clockwise.

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CLOCKWISE did produce one terrific quote. It comes as Cleese's character, the headmaster Brian Stimpson, realises all is not quite lost in his desperate attempt to reach a conference in Norwich. Slumped at the side of the road he tells his young travelling companion: "It's not the despair, Laura. I can take the despair. It's the hope I can't stand." We all know that feeling.

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I REFERRED a few days ago to the process of sorting out the rights to oil and gas before Scotland votes on independence. A reader suggests they are leaving it to the last minute and hoping for the best, in the belief that it'll be oil rights on the night.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

NEC to be sold off in deal worth at

THE NATIONAL Exhibition Centre Group is to be sold off as a council tries to cope with £1 billion of debts from equal pay claims.

Conservative estimates have suggested the NEC Group, including the LG Arena, International Convention Centre and National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, could be worth at least £300 million.

Birmingham City Council today confirmed it was seeking offers for the NEC Group.

The NEC Group is said to bring more than £2 billion a year to the West Midlands economy and supports 29,000 jobs.

But the city council is being forced by a court to settle claims of thousands of women employees who were paid less than other workers, mainly men, for doing equivalent jobs.

One law firm alone is said to have as many as 4,000 cases.

The City Council has stressed it wants to ensure the current use of the exhibition centre, ICC and the two arenas are preserved.

The NEC was opened in 1976 using funding from the council and has evolved to host major events and concerts by some of the biggest performers in the world. The X Factor tour will be at the LG Arena later this month.

Birmingham City Council has been looking at selling off landmarks to settle the legal bills. Richard Taffler, professor of finance at Warwick Business School, said it's 'likely the NEC is probably only worth £300m'.

Sir Albert Bore, Leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "A key purpose of the city council investing in establishing the NEC Group more than 30 years ago was to drive

Dead mice found in restaurant kitchen

OWNERS of an Indian Restaurant in Smethwick have been fined nearly £10,000 after environmental health officers found dead mice and droppings on containers and equipment.

Officers from Sandwell Council's environmental health department were carrying out a routine check at Jee Jee's Punjabi Bar and Grill on December 10, 2012 when they discovered mouse droppings in the kitchen.

by Tom Mason

They were also on food preparation equipment and in areas used for food storage areas, as well as a dead mouse in a case full of glasses, Sandwell Magistrates Court heard. The restaurant on the High Street in Smethwick is owned by Theogony Limited, who are based in Portland Road, Birmingham.

Alka Kapoor, the company's director and secretary, represented the company in court and pleaded guilty to failing to put in place adequate procedures to control pests, failing to ensure food was protected against any contamination and failing to ensure the premises were kept clean.

Mr David Elliot, prosecuting on behalf of Sandwell Council said that when officers arrived they didn't suspect there was a problem with mice, but soon became suspicious of the establishment after it failed to provide necessary paperwork relating to cleaning and temperature controls.

He said: "Officers discovered mouse droppings on shelves in a food storage area in the cellar. They also found a dead mouse in a container holding glasses and two more badly decomposed bodies of mice wedged between a bin."

"Officers decided that it caused an immediate risk to public health and gave the manager the option of compulsory or voluntary closure, and he took the decision to close voluntarily."

He said that the company was told to clean up the kitchen and contact their pest controller, Rentokil, to remove the mouse infestation. In total 23 dead mice were found in traps over a three day period while the restaurant was closed, it was re-opened following an inspection on January 14.

Theogony Limited were fined in total £9,900 for the three offences and ordered to pay an additional £330 victim surcharge and court costs of £2,420.44p.

Praise in a roundabout way

Simon Chadwick, Darren Jones, Kevin Beresford, Mahboob Hussain and Parmjit Sahota

AN attractive gateway traffic island in Sandwell which was featured on a special 2014 calendar has been praised by a national body which encourages high-quality roundabouts.

Kevin Beresford, president of the United Kingdom Roundabout Appreciation Society, visited Sandwell to see the Birchley Island in Oldbury. He met Sandwell Council deputy leader Councillor Mahboob Hussain and officers who worked on the regeneration of the much-praised gateway location. "I am pleased to visit Sandwell to hand over the calendars," said Mr Beresford. "I am most impressed with other roundabouts in the borough that I have noticed during my visit.

Councillor Hussain said "We have had a lot of positive feedback from local businesses, residents and visitors to the borough."

Climbing up in popularity

CLIMBING is available to try for £1 at taster sessions throughout March. This month, taster sessions are taking place at Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from 7pm to those aged 16 and over.

Sessions have a maximum limit of 12 participants, allocated on a first come first served basis, and each person can take part in two sessions. No previous climbing experience is required, and all specialist equipment and instruction is provided. Booking is essential, visit Portway Lifestyle Centre or call 0300 012 0121. See www.closertotheedge.co.uk

Benefits sanctions 'are not working'

MORE than half of sanctions imposed against people's benefits in Sandwell were overturned after review during the first financial quarter, new figures have revealed.

The council's finance boss Councillor Steve Eling has since said there is something 'badly wrong' with the system. Sanctions may be imposed for reasons including missing appointments at job centres.

They can lead to claimants having their benefits payments suspended. But figures obtained by Sandwell Council from the Department for Work and Pensions show that, for sanctions against people's Jobseeker's Allowance between April 1 and June 30 2013, there were 690 'requests for reconsideration' – 350 of which were upheld.

There were also 10 requests for reconsideration over sanctions on Employment and Support Allowance which were all upheld. Councillor Eling says he wants to find ways to support those looking to have their sanctions reviewed. He said: "This tells us there is something badly wrong with the way benefits sanctions are being applied."

Fantasy set to be staged

A CHILDREN's favourite fantasy tale is to be brought to life over two nights.

The His Dark Materials trilogy by Philip Pullman is to be performed by year 13 students from the Birmingham Ormiston Academy at The Old Rep Theatre in Birmingham. The first half of the piece is hitting the stage on Wednesday, March 19, with the conclusion the following evening.

Alternative performances are available on Friday, March 21 at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are £12 for both showse. Call 0121 245 4455 or email ticketservices@birmingham-box.co.uk

Ramble taking

KEEN walkers are being invited to set off on a ramble around Wolverley in Worcestershire this weekend.

West Bromwich Ramblers has organised the walk on Sunday, with two routes or either six miles or eight miles.

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Spire bid approved for town mosque

RETROSPECTIVE planning permission has been given to a mosque that extended the height of a spire.

Members of the Central Jamia Mosque in Tipton have been told they will be able to retain a dome that was added to the top of an existing minaret, which increased the height of the tower by around six feet.

The building in Binfield Street was one of several mosques targeted by nail bomber Pavlo Lapshyn, who planted a device containing hundreds of nails on a railway embankment next to its car park.

Concerns had been raised by residents in the neighbouring street of Mayfair Garden who lodged five complaints about the height of the tower and a bright light at the top of the tower that is used during religious festivals. A report created by planning officers at the council was heard at a recent planning committee.

It said: "However whilst it is taller, wider and made of different materials, it does not appear out of scale or inappropriate." The plans, submitted after the extension was built, were approved by councillors at the planning meeting following a site visit.

£150-plus for RSPCA

VOLUNTEERS from the RSPCA raised more than £150 during a recent collection.

Customers at Pets at Home in Oldbury donated a total of £158.67 during the collection at the store from February 14 to 16.

Helen Tuite, community fundraiser for the RSPCA Birmingham Animal Centre and Hospital, said: "We raised £158.67 which was a great result. The next event is a music and dance event at Symphony Hall on March 16, with tickets priced from £6 to £18.50." Call 07715 540518 or email bhamfundraising@rspca.org.uk

Asbestos death

A RETIRED publican died after being exposed to asbestos when he worked as a mechanic fitting brake pads, a coroner has ruled. Smethwick Coroners Court heard Michael Bourne of Wood Lane, West Bromwich, and aged 71, died at home on September 13 last year.

Ian gives jobless youngsters a leg up

Former Aston Villa player Ian Taylor

FORMER Aston Villa midfielder Ian Taylor has been lending a helping hand to four young unemployed jobseekers. He did a question and answer session with the youngsters as part of a week-long course on The Prince's Trust's Get Started with Football initiative.

The course which was held at Villa Park is one of more than 80 Get Started programmes delivered each year in partnership with the Premier League and Professional Footballers' Association.

The aim of the scheme is to them employment within a range of sectors. Ian said: "I worked in several jobs before I was a footballer so I know how hard it is for a young person to find work, but I was fortunate enough to have a long career in football.

"Football is an inspiring game, which is why I think schemes like those run by The Prince's Trust are invaluable. They can give young people focus at a time when many are struggling with their confidence and I wish these latest graduates all the very best of luck in their future careers."

Daniel Brown, aged 22, said the course had given him new skills. He added: "Since completing the level one coaching course I saw an advertisement at my local Job Centre for primary school sports apprenticeships. Having accomplished my qualification through my recent participation, I'm now in a position to apply."

Katharine Corbett, from Sutton Coldfield and also 22, said she felt the team and communication skills she developed over the week had improved her job prospects.

"I'm passionate about football and would love the opportunity to find employment in the game. I'm hoping that with the support of my Prince's Trust mentor I'll fulfil my ambition of becoming a sports coach." Three in every four young people helped by the Prince's Trust move into employment, training or education.

Prison officer starts jail term over inmate affair

A SENIOR prison officer who had a sexual relationship with a serving prisoner was this week herself behind bars.

Julie Turton was in charge of 'M' Wing at HMP Birmingham in Winson Green when she struck up a relationship with prisoner Danny King. On Monday, the 54-year-old from Hembs Crescent, Hamstead, Great Barr, was jailed for two years and eight months.

She had previously pleaded guilty to five charges of misconduct in a public office, and a sixth charge of supply of a class B drug, cannabis.

Prosecuting solicitor Mr Robert Price told Birmingham Crown Court that Turton had around 15 years' experience working in the prison service when she started her relationship with King, which lasted for more than a year.

Between June 14, 2012 and July 13, 2013, King phoned Turton's personal mobile phone using a prison telephone 95 times, and they spoke for a total of 399 minutes.

The prosecution said that there was evidence of a sexual relationship between the pair. In her defence Turton claimed that it was only on two occasions on prison grounds, and that it was just kissing and touching.

A love letter from King, found in Turton's bedside cabinet by police along with his photograph, was read out in court. Addressed to 'my beautiful, sexy Julie', it said: "You are all I ever want and need." Two of the charges relate to mobile phone communications she had with two other inmates.

Turton was also sentenced for supply of cannabis, after handing two Kinder Eggs to Hussain's wife Shelah Arif which contained around £200 of the drug.

Amateur dramatics troupe in show call

A LONG-RUNNING amateur dramatics group has announced the title of its next performance in May.

The All Saints Players, which performs at All Saints Church, West Bromwich, will be presenting RolePlay by Alan Ayckbourn.

The play is a comedy set in a flat in London Docklands and sees a hopelessly mismatched couple introduce their parents to one another over dinner, only to find they are just as different.

Performances will run from May 20 to May 23. Tickets are priced £4.50 or £4 concessions, with curtain up at 7.30pm every night.

The group is also currently looking for new acting members in all age groups for its traditional November performance and future plays.

Rehearsals take place on Tuesdays from 7.30pm-10pm. For more information about tickets or joining the group call 0121 588 4786 or come along to the All Saints Way church on Tuesday evenings.

Successful gymnasts are flying high

The Sandwell Flyers Gymnastics Club who have come back successful from a competition in Coventry, with seven medals

A GROUP of young gymnasts emulated the heroics of Team GB's winter Olympians and brought home a haul of medals – in their first ever competition.

The Sandwell Flyers Gymnastics Academy won a total of seven medals in their first tumbling competition.

It was also the first time some of the children, aged between eight and 10, had competed, and the club itself has only been doing gymnastics for the past year.

Coach Lauren Hayward said: "For a first competition it is unusual to win so many medals, but they have all been working really hard. They have only been training on the specific routines for a few months.

"This was the club's first tumbling competition, as we were predominantly trampolining previously.

"We started gymnastics because people were phoning and asking for it, and when we told them we only did trampolining they wouldn't come in. So to get the numbers up we started offering gymnastics sessions."

Some of those to bring home medals at the contest at Woodlands Academy in Coventry, were eight-year-old Cerys Wellings, who came second out of 18 people, and the club's only competing boy Harvey Kinsell, also eight, who picked up a silver.

Overall, the club, based in Queens Court in Greets Green Road, won three golds, three silvers and a bronze.

Lauren added: "I'm very proud of all of them." For anyone wanting to inquire about joining the group, call Lauren on 07703 021556.

NEWS in brief

Family found man had killed himself

A 51-YEAR-OLD man who suffered mental health issues killed himself, an inquest heard. Robert Dyke of Firs Close, Smethwick, was found dead at his home by his family.

Smethwick Coroners Court heard he had injured himself and was found lying on the sofa on October 3 last year.

He was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham where he later died. Black Country coroner Robin Balmain concluded Mr Dyke had killed himself.

Singer's gospel night at centre

WALSALL singer David Copeland will be share the stage with a top US gospel act.

He will be among the support performers when Fred Hammond appears at the Bethel Convention Centre, in Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, on May 23 at 7.30pm.

Early tickets cost £20 and bookings are available at The Hub, in Walsall, on 01922 279227 and CLC Wolverhampton on 01902 424020. Other acts include Jason Nelson, Roger Samuels and Four Kornerz.

Prince's Trust call for participants

YOUNG adults who want to learn new skills, gain work experience and qualifications are being urged to sign up for the Prince's Trust programme.

The 12-week programme is for people aged between 16 and 25, with the next one starting on March 17 at Smethwick Police Station. Fordetails call 101 and ask for Pc Andrew Peters at the station.

Architects event for town projects

FIRMS interesting in bidding for work as part of Sandwell multi-million pound regeneration schemes are invited to a breakfast meeting.

The Meet the Architects event is planned to run from 8.30am-1pm on April 25 at Sandwell Council House in Oldbury. To book a place email stephen_massey@sandwell.gov.uk.

Bank to be pub

A FORMER bank will be turned into a real ale pub – despite concerns from residents. Black Country Inns has been granted permission to transform the old HSBC bank in Bearwood Road, Bearwood.

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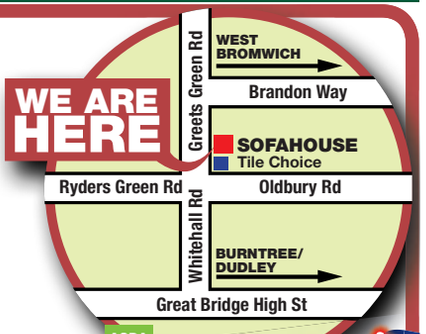

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

HOW depressing that Apprentice runner-up Luisa Zissman has had her Ferrari vandalised. And even more depressing that some idiot on Twitter suggested it was a form of 'karma' for having the effrontery to drive such a vehicle.

Are some people just born with a chip on the shoulder, or does society just turn them that way?

In typically robust fashion, Zissman replied: "I hope when you buy one someday because you've worked hard someone does it to you!"

But the chances of such people ever working hard for anything are about as likely as Helen Flanagan becoming president of Mensa.

Still, I surely can't be the only one who is wondering how a baker who did not even win Lord Sugar's prized investment is now in the Ferrari league.

That is a lot of cupcakes.

❒❒❒❒❒

DAYBREAK, the ITV breakfast television service which shares its name with the old TV-am early morning news show from the 1980s, is in line for another revamp.

It is now going be renamed, er Good Morning Britain, after another TV-am breakfast show from 30 years ago, and is going to be presented by Susanna Reid, who appears to have been poached from the BBC on the basis that she is good at ballroom dancing.

Talk about back to the 80s. I suppose we should be glad that nobody thought it a good idea to bring back Gyles Brandreth and his garish sweaters, but it does highlight a lack of creativity and original thinking. And if they really do think that 1983 represented some golden era in breakfast broadcasting, there is one crucial ingredient they have overlooked.

Let's have Roland Rat doing the paper reviews. Now that would have people tuning in.

❒❒❒❒❒

NEWCASTLE United manager Alan Pardew is in hot water after going head-to-head with Hull City midfielder David Meyler.

His touchline contretemps has landed him with a £100,000 fine. Or a weekend, as Wayne Rooney would call it.

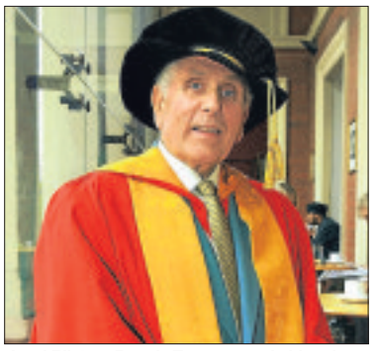
Personally, I think he has been a bit hard done by. After all, a spot of head-to-head contact is usually seen as a gesture of affection up in horse-fighter land.

And I'm sure he was really only offering a coaching lesson in ball control.

❒❒❒❒❒

JUST 10 days ago, glassy-eyed Russian president Vladimir Putin was the smiling host of the winter Olympic games. The following weekend, he appeared to be gearing up for a full-scale invasion of the Crimea.

Didn't somebody once say that a week was a long time in politics?



Lord Bilston, Dennis Turner seen in his robes

With Annie Kemmies, 79, at Cradley Labour club in 1974

With his Honorary Freeman of the City scroll in 2006

Lord who never forgot his roots

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT looks back at the life of former MP and peer Lord Bilston who has died at 71

IT is hard to imagine another politician more deserving of the title 'man of the people' than Dennis Turner.

Even when elevated to the House of Lords, he took the town of his birth as his name, Baron Bilston.

And when he served as MP for Wolverhampton South East around 300 people took to the streets at the end of his first term of office to campaign for his re-election.

The crusade succeeded, with the number of votes for Dennis Turner in 1992 almost double those of his Conservative rival.

Fast forward 22 years and it would be unthinkable, in the post-expenses scandal 'they're all the same' cynicism of 2014 that any MP would have such a strong following.

But Dennis Turner, honoured last year with a Famous Sons and Daughters of Wolverhampton award, was from a different era, when more working class people were chosen by their communities to represent them in Westminster. He was an extremely well-liked politician, for whom successive Express & Star lobby reporters based in the House of Commons developed a fondness and friendship.

He was born, raised and educated in Bradley. And he lived there all his life.

He would become a staunch union man who believed strongly in a fair deal for working people.

He was educated at St Martin's C of E School, in Slater Street, then at Stonefield Secondary (later Hall Green Comprehensive, then Bilston High School and now South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy), in Prosser Street.

He left to work at Thomas Perry steel roll makers, in Highfields Road, as an office boy making tea and doing chores, then studied office accounting at Bilston College before joining the Betterware kitchen equipment company as a salesman when he was 17.

The newly-elected MP for Wolverhampton South East seen in 1987

Going door to door in the 1950s and 1960s, and seeing the poor conditions of slum housing, gave Lord Bilston the interest he would have in politics for the rest of his life and the belief that he could help to make things better.

In 1964 he moved into the Bilston steel industry, beginning as a stocktaker, and later as transport controller.

And two years later, he was first elected to the Wolverhampton Borough Council at the age of 22. He was chosen to be the deputy leader of the council in 1980, a position he held for six years until his decision to stand for Parliament. Lord Bilston also served on the now-defunct West Midlands County Council from 1973 until 1986.

He chaired the Joint Trade Union Action Committee which had fought the long and ultimately doomed battle to stop the closure of Bilston Steelworks. He was at the forefront of the five-year fight to save the works from the axe in the late 1970s, and was devastated when it closed with the loss of thousands of jobs. "It was traumatic to see the demise of the steel industry," he once recalled. "I don't think I will ever see such a catastrophic effect on the people of this area."

So popular was he among his political peers that in 1987, when he first won the Wolverhampton South East seat, even members of the Tory party had contributed to his campaign fund. As a Wolverhampton councillor at the time he was given a China piggy bank by Conservative Paddy Bradley when he resigned his seat to begin his campaign.

He continued to fight hard for his people. In 1993 he gathered 5,000 signatures on two petitions, 2,500 on each, campaigning against plans to impose VAT on fuel and another against threats to strip pensioners of free travel passes.

Identity

Just a few years ago his time and power was called upon again when Bilston itself looked to be bureaucratically torn apart in a review of Parliamentary boundaries.

The town was set to be represented by four different MPs, something that risked its very identity.

Dennis, along with his brother Bert, a councillor and at the time mayor of Wolverhampton, led the charge. They took a coachload of people to a Boundary Commission hearing in Birmingham to plead their case. And they won.

The stroke he suffered in May 2006 affected the use of his right arm and leg, but he recovered and carried on his duties in the Lords. The following year he was granted Freedom of the City.

But despite his huge political profile he was a family man at heart. He leaves his devoted wife Pat, 67, two grown up children, Brendon and Jenny, and a granddaughter, Bella. Last year, the old Labour firebrand Dennis Skinner highlighted Dennis Turner as the sort of person that voters just do not see enter politics anymore and sadly, will not again.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

FOOTBALL Association chief Bert Millichip called for urgent meetings with the Home Secretary following disgraceful scenes of violence from England fans in France. Former West Bromwich Albion chairman Mr Millichip said he was appalled by the behaviour of the fans which left 15 people needing hospital treatment, two of them seriously ill.

TONY Benn was back in Parliament less than a year after losing his Bristol seat. The former cabinet minister won a by-election in Chesterfield. But Labour leader Neil Kinnock's joy at retaining Chesterfield was tempered by reports Mr Benn was already set to rock the boat, demanding new policies stripping the Queen of her constitutional powers, removing the Prime Minister's right to appoint and remove cabinet ministers, and abolishing the House of Lords.

1994

A PETROL station attendant used his mobile phone to dial for freedom after armed raiders locked him in a toilet.Two gun-wielding robbers forced Arshad Hussain into a toilet at the Elf Service Station in Moxley before making off with nearly £2,000. Mr Hussain used his mobile to call police.

A PILOT died at the controls of his cargo plane after its engines failed. The four-engined Vickers Viscount plummeted out of the sky in blizzards at Stowe-by-Chartley, between Stafford and Uttoxeter. The pilot had battled to avoid hitting homes.

DETECTIVES excavating the house of Gloucester builder Fred West believed they had discovered the corpses of two women who disappeared during the 1970s. One of them was identified as former Wolverhampton schoolgirl Shirley Robinson. A third body was believed to be West's 16-year-old daughter, last seen in 1987. West, aged 52, was charged with three murders.

2004

AN edgy play was causing controversy. Everyman - An Immorality Play, focused on holidaymakers in a Spanish hotel, and featured foul language and female nudity. But the Conservative group leader of Wolverhampton Council, Councillor Mrs Paddy Bradley, was not impressed by the production due at the city's Arena Theatre. "There is no respect left for life or women's bodies in the world any more," she said.

FORMER Walsall schoolboy Steven Knight was waving the flag for the West Midlands at the Oscars but he missed out on one of the famous statuettes when his play Dirty Pretty Things was pipped to the post.

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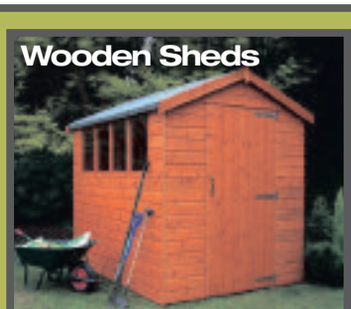

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LETTERS

Deidre's farcical political hopes

I HAVE had to laugh at the suggestion that Deidre Kelly – aka "White Dee", apparent 'star' of Benefits Street – is now considering running for Parliament. Ha!

In spite of the popular misconception, most MP's are actually hard working and have a work ethic second to none. As far as I know they all tend to get up the wrong side of 6.30 and do full long days committed to their community for the good of all, pretty much seven days a week.

No swearing in front of children and they actually have foresight and projects in mind to aid and help the country.

As far as I know none of their tasks involves sitting on a doorstep all day drinking and smoking.

Finally, I seem to recall that Deidre just happens to be on benefits due to her depression. Strange how now the chance to do something that brings large amounts of money and a certain level of recognition seems to have cured this illness which she is on disability allowances for. Just a thought, but I am sure many of her potential constituents will not be so supportive of someone who is on the social.

S STROUD, Wednesbury

Discounts as an insult

I READ with interest that Sandwell MBC is considering a discount scheme for its workers because the council cannot afford to give them a pay rise. Another part of the scheme is salary sacrifice in return for benefits such as childcare vouchers, car parking and buying annual leave!

Why not go the whole way? Stop wages altogether and reintroduce the 'Tommy Shop' which some employers used years ago. No wages paid but tokens given to workers who then exchanged them for goods from the shop, owned, of course, by the employer!

There is no question about helping people affected by the floods, but Cameron will not take any funds from the amount which we donate to other countries in foreign aid to help workers.

C MILLWARD, Tipton

We got rid of all the railways

ALL this going on about having this HS2 line, the governments we have had since the last war ended in 1945 wanted to get rid of our railways.

All the branch lines for a start, but the line from Birmingham, Snow Hill, to Wolverhampton was a main line, all put back at a cost.

The line to Stratford-upon-Avon at one time they only wanted to go as far as Shirley. But the line now stops at Stratford-upon-Avon. But at one time it went on to Cheltenham. Bet they wish they could still?

Now this West Coast Main Line, they wanted to close this. The line goes up to Carlisle. I think the main reason was the Ribbles Head viaduct.

But that was repaired thankfully and that's doing well today, with some steam trains using it.

If, the big if, they had kept the Great Central Railway line, there would be no talk of this costly HS2 today would there.

F H JENNINGS
Birmingham

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Sandwell
@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

No real-life shown in soap storylines

D S PARKER does have a point when he mentions the lamentable lack of true to life storylines in soap operas. However I disagree with his opinion that gay issues hog the scripts.

My objection to such serials as EastEnders and Coronation Street, is that the plots are too violent. We have to suffer, many times during the schedules, trailers showing people shouting and threatening each other, and it really is not entertainment.

The scripts are not an accurate reflection of modern life. I feel that producers, anxious to gain and keep ratings, will try anything to do so. But it is the same with most TV these days. You cannot watch anything, with some exceptions, without the intelligence being insulted. Even the news seems to me to have an element of exaggeration. With the recent floods, this reached levels of absurdity when we saw reporters up to their knees in flood waters! What is the purpose behind this?

I welcome a broader range of people in soap operas, be they gay, bisexual, stamp collectors or lapsed baptists. But please portray them realistically.A Martian landing on Earth might think that all humans drank to excess, had illegitimate children by the score, pulled faces and swore relentlessly.

C K Millward
Tipton

Our big battle for benefits

I WONDER if anyone can beat this then. My husband was taken seriously ill last June. To cut a long story short he had to give up work. Early July we applied for personal independent payment (PIP).

Up to yet as I write this he has not even been assessed. After several phone calls and complaints to no avail we have just about given up. I have known some people wait up to two years.

Is this what the Tories mean by helping the vulnerable in society, or by being all in this together? Don't make me laugh Dave...

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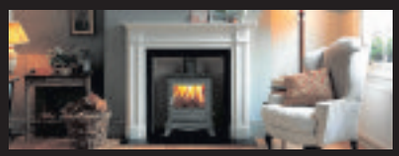

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NEWS

Plans for homes at school site put on ice

A DECISION on plans to build almost 80 new homes on the site of a former school has been put on hold after Sport England lodged an objection.

Members of Sandwell Council's planning committee backed the development on the old Fir Tree School in Greenside Way on the Yew Tree Estate last week. But a final decision cannot yet be made.

by Heather Large

It follows Sport England raising concerns about the loss of the playing field which is part of the site. An assessment of the borough's playing fields is now taking place.

Councillors voted to support the plans from Persimmon Homes for 78 properties despite the objection. The decision has been put on hold while discussions take place with Sport England.

Councillor Liam Preece said he couldn't understand the objection. He added: "There is a playing field with the school but it is locked away and people can't get to it. I don't see what benefit it is to the community when it's behind lock and key." Under the plans, there would be a mixture of two, three and four-bedroom houses and a number of smaller two bedroom apartments.

Developers have also pledged to put aside 20 homes for affordable housing and invest money in nearby sports pitches. The scheme has proved unpopular with residents who fear it will put pressure on local services.

A letter from the developer to the planning committee chief, Councillor Steven Frear, stated: "The development will contribute to the delivery of new homes to meet local housing needs and address the current housing shortfall."

Seal of approval for conducting move

Michael Seal who will be conducting the CBSO and concentrating on this more after his success on the violin

A TALENTED violinist with more than 23 years of experience at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has announced he is putting down his bow and picking up a baton permanently to concentrate on his conducting career.

Michael Seal has announced his decision to pack away his violin for the last time on July 2.

"Quite simply put, it is something I have to do. Conducting is my passion and it is what I see myself doing for the rest of my life. Nothing makes me feel happier and more alive than conducting orchestras," said Mr Seal, the CBSO's Associate Conductor.

Mr Seal will be conducting the CBSO's family concerts, with the next one due on May 11. Tonight, Thursday, he will oversee Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto with Gabriela Montero on March 6 and Shostakovich's Fifth as part of the CBSO's Tuned in series on Saturday, at 7pm.

Tickets are available from Symphony Hall or Town Hall box offices in person, by phone: 0121 780 3333, or online: www.cbso.co.uk/concerts

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NEWS

Search is on for shop robber in CCTV images

THESE CCTV pictures show a man police are hunting for three separate raids, in which he threatens people with a gun.

The first two raids, at HSBC in Cradley Heath and Lloyds TSB in Bearwood, proved fruitless, with the offender, aged in his 40s to 50s, fleeing empty handed.

But in the most recent offence, on Tuesday, February 18, the man snatched the till from Booze Corner in Halesowen.

The robber first struck on Friday, January 31, when he walked into the HSBC on Cradley Heath High Street and pulled out a handgun before requesting that the cashier handed over money. In fear for her safety, the member of staff walked away from the counter and the would-be thief fled.

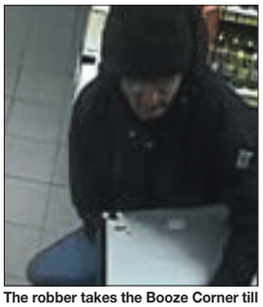
Then on Monday, February 17, the same man is believed to have struck at Lloyds TSB on Bearwood Road, where his attempts were foiled again.

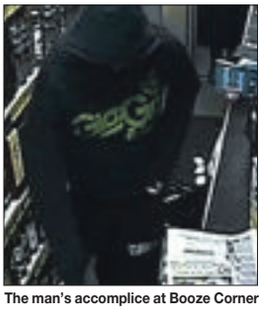
Brian Habington's 74-year-old mother Barbara was in the bank during the attempted raid. He said: "When she was standing in the queue when all of a sudden a big-looking bloke, with his face completely covered, ran up to the counter demanding money.

"The staff wouldn't give it to him, and he ran off. My mother was completely shocked, she couldn't go shopping afterwards. The staff were so cool, and took care of her afterwards, then the other day they sent her a big bunch of flowers."

The very next day two men entered Booze Corner on Howley Grange Road, Halesowen, and demanded money from the till while brandishing a gun, but before the woman could act one of the men grabbed the till and ran to a waiting car, a turquoise Land Rover.

Booze Corner in Howley Grange Road


The robber takes the Booze Corner till


The man's accomplice at Booze Corner

The robber in HSBC, Cradley Heath

The main offender is white, around 5ft 8ins to 5ft 10ins tall, medium build, aged in his 40s or 50s, and he has been known to wear a black beanie hat or hooded top, light coloured trainers and dark gloves. In the Booze Corner raid the offender also wore large glasses.

His accomplice in the latest crime was in his 20s and wore a black top with a GioGio logo in bright green across the front. He also wore dark jeans and a bright blue Voi logo on the pockets.

All of the robberies have taken place between noon and 2.30pm.

Anyone with information should call 101 or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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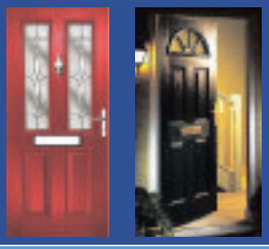

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NEWS

Steve weighs in with gym success

Councillor Paul Moore with Steve Cartledge and gym instructor Dan Simpson as they celebrate his three stone weight loss

THE very first customer at a new leisure centre in the Black Country has managed to lose three stone within the first year of it being open.

Steve Cartledge has been using Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury between eight and ten times a week since it opened and has gone from weighing 15 stone, and two pounds to 11 stone 11 lbs.

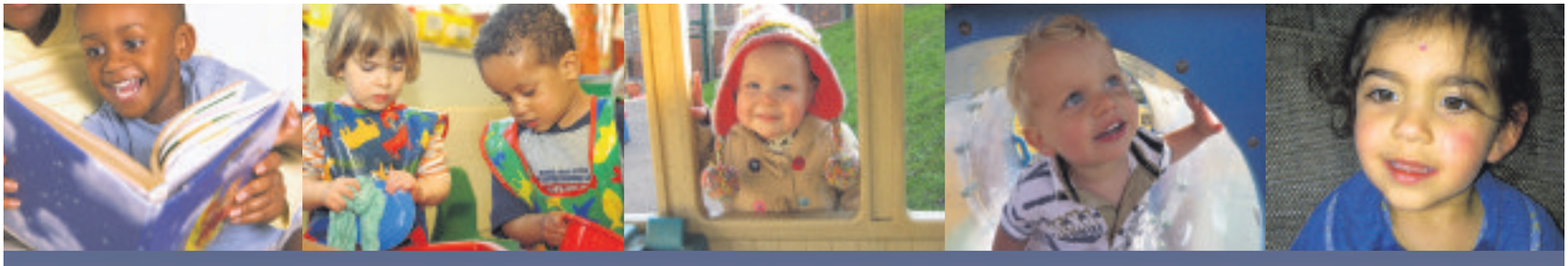
The 50-year-old from Carnegie Road, Rowley Regis, was welcomed as Portway Lifestyle Centre's first customer by Councillor Steve Eling on September 23 last year on the first day of his new fitness regime.

Steve Cartledge said: "I've been using the gym on and off for years and then slipped a disc last Christmas which meant I had to take 6 months off working out. I decided to join the new centre when it opened to help me shift the extra weight I'd put on.I get a buzz from my workout and am always buzzing when I get to work."

He said his fitness routine has since been made up of workouts every morning as well as two or three nights every week and dieting – eating good food, cutting down on carbohydrates and eating more protein.

Portway Lifestyle Centre Manager, John Harling, said: "We're really pleased that Steve has made such an impact on his health and fitness since joining Portway Lifestyle Centre.

"Our friendly gym team can create personal programmes tailored to individual needs." The centre includes a four-court sports hall, a hydro-therapy pool for rehabilitation and other therapeutic purposes."



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NEWS

Drinking craze sparks warning from doctor

A SANDWELL children's leader has issued a warning about a drink or dare craze sweeping the internet.

Dr Jenny Harding, independent chair of Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board, is urging parents and carers to speak to youngsters about the dangers of Neknominate.

The so-called game involves someone posting footage online of themselves downing a large amount of alcohol. They then challenge two or more friends to outdo them and anyone who does not take part can face ridicule on social media like Facebook.

As the craze has spread people have started drinking larger amounts of alcohol including cocktails and other concoctions.

Dr Harding's warning comes in the wake of the Local Government Association, which represents almost 400 councils in England and Wales, saying Twitter and Facebook should introduce warnings about Neknominate.

She said: "We are contacting schools and our other partners like the NHS to ask them to help raise awareness of this issue.

"Neknominate is no more of a problem in Sandwell than anywhere else but we want to ensure parents and carers know about it so they can talk to their children if necessary.

"Drinking lots of alcohol quickly can be dangerous and have serious consequences. The clips rarely show the after-effects such as vomiting or passing out and/or other risky situations they may find themselves in.

"Social media like Facebook and Twitter can exert a tremendous amount of peer pressure and it can be difficult for people to say no."

If anyone has concerns or would like to find out more about talking to their child about alcohol and staying safe they should visit www.ourguideto.co.uk

The board co-ordinates efforts in the borough to keep children and young people safe from harm.

Diamond joy for couple

Betty and Charles Mitchell celebrate their diamond anniversary

THEY met through a friend while he was on leave from National Service – and within days Betty and Charles Mitchell were parted as he returned to base in Portsmouth.

But 11 months later they were married and are now celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary. The couple, of Cheslyn Hay, got married on March 6, 1954 at St Lawrence's Church, Darlaston and set up home in Portsmouth, where Mr Mitchell was in the medical corps. They headed back to the Midlands after six years as Mrs Mitchell wanted to return to be near her home in Wednesbury. The couple have a 58-year-old daughter, Susan Price, and grandchildren Katie, 27, and James, 30. Mrs Mitchell said: "You have your ups and downs but you have to stick together."

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MEMORY LANE

One of the pictures showing the destruction which will be on display at the library

DAILY SKETCH.

HE ZEP RAID OVER ENGLAND

The Daily Sketch article with pictures of the victims

Amateur historian Derek Nicholls who has put together the Zeppelins exhibition

Survivors take a look at a crater in Bradford Place, Walsall

L21 Zeppelins were used to bomb the Black Country

Devastating night of the Zeppelins that left its mark on Black Country

by Mark Andrews

IT WAS just a normal night in the Black Country, or as normal as any night was during the dark days of the First World War.

The trams clattered through the streets, folk flocked to the cinemas. The lights were ablaze as people went about their business as usual.

Then the Zeppelins came. Dozens were killed as bomb after bomb pounded down on Tipton, Wednesbury, Bilston and Walsall. Buildings were ripped apart as death rained down from the skies. A devastated husband returned from the pictures to find three generations of his family had perished in the carnage. The Black Country had never seen anything like it.

Amateur historian Derrick Nicholls has spent 18 months researching the devastating raids of 98 years ago, putting together an exhibition at Tipton Library.

Among the artefacts Mr Nicholls, a 71-year-old retired newsagent, has gathered together, is a police notice advising the public what to do in the event of an air raid.

It suggests keeping a bucket of sand or water to hand in the upstairs bedrooms, in order to tackle any small fires that may break out.

"All windows and doors on the lower floor should be closed to prevent the admission of noxious gases," added police commissioner Mr E R Henry.

Destruction came to the Black Country on a foggy, frosty night on January 31, 1916, when a fleet of German Zeppelin airships were making their way to attack Liverpool.

But in the misty conditions and heavy clouds, two of nine aircraft – the L21 and L19 – became lost over the Midlands. Zeppelin L21 was commanded by 45-year-old Kapitanleutnant Max Dietrich. He had thought he was flying over the Irish Sea but had been mistaken by sparsely populated areas of countryside.

On his orders, the crew of 16 dropped their deadly payload from the skies on an unsuspecting public largely unaware of their imminent fate. Bombs were initially believed to have hit Union Street in Tipton, with around five of the devices falling all around.

One also fell outside Tipton railway station and more around Barnfield Road trading estate. In Union Street, two houses were demolished and others damaged, the gas main was set alight. In all 14 people were killed in the town as the bombs struck at around 8 o'clock that night.

Treatment

News reports at the time were subject to military censorship, and the Express & Star was only allowed to describe the Black Country raids as being in Staffordshire.

An inquest was held jointly for 13 of the victims of the Tipton bombing on February 3. The 14th victim Louisa York, who worked as nurse, had been taken for treatment at Dudley Guest Hospital and her inquest was held elsewhere. The ruling from the inquest on the death certificates states 'Wilful murder against the Kaiser of Germany and his son the Crown Prince as being accessory to and after the fact' at the insistence of the inquest jury. A young couple, Maud and William Fellows, who were unmarried but had the same name, were killed after one bomb hit as they walked along a canal towpath in nearby Bradley.

Their death is commemorated by a plaque on the wall of the Bradley pumping station.

Mr Nicholls, of Beverston Road, has been holding an exhibition at Tipton Library, bringing together the images and stories through trawling the archives, including those of the Express & Star for the exhibition. At the time, the Express & Star reported that 26 people had been killed instantly during the night, but Mr Nicholls' research found the death toll was significantly higher. Mr Nicholls says a total of 33 people were killed in the raid."

Mr Nicholls is now considering putting together a book of his research. The exhibition, which returns to the library from March 13 to 28, was put together to coincide with a special community opera, Zeppelin Dreams which runs at the Wolverhampton Grand on March 20 and 21.

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NEWS

Bungled bookies safe raiders are locked up

TWO bungling burglars backed a loser when they tried to steal a safe from a bookmakers, a judge was told.

Mark Tibbs, 40, and 34-year-old Edward Preece were caught red-handed after breaking in through the front door two days before Christmas, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The pair used crow bars to prise the safe with £5000 inside from its concrete base in the floor of the Coral shop at Owen Street, Tipton, said Miss Sally Cairns, prosecuting.

The raiders caused over £2,000 damage as they unsuccessfully attempted to strong arm it out of the turf accountants at 4.30am, but only managed to alert police to what was going on by setting off the burglar alarm, the court heard.

Officers arrived in time to see Tibbs fleeing over a wall and chased him down an alleyway where both he and Preece were arrested, continued Miss Cairns.

She said: "They got in by forcing open the front door of the shop and left by the back door. Crow bars were used to break the safe away from the floor. A tamper alarm was activated which alerted the police.

"Tibbs was jumping over a wall at the back of the building when the officers reached the scene. He and Preece ran down an alleyway where both were detained."

The unopened safe was discovered wedged between two walls on the staircase. A third man escaped and has not been traced.

Tibbs from Bloomfield Terrace, Tipton, had 21 previous convictions while Preece of nearby Parkes Lane had 17 previous convictions and was the subject of a community order for another non dwelling burglary at the time of the break in, the court was told.

Mr Stephen Cadwaladr, defending, said: "Both were recruited late in the day. The two defendants required little persuasion. It was two days before Christmas and they were strapped for cash."

The two men both admitted burglary and were each jailed for 16 months by Judge John Wait.

New beauty centre opens

Mayor Linda Horton, Louise Fitzpatrick, Cllr Roger Horton and Dan Cawthorne

THE ribbon has been cut on a new clinic showcasing the latest treatments helping to keep customers looking young and beautiful.

Aesthetica clinic, based in Birmingham Road, Great Barr, opened for business after Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Linda Horton met staff.

Director Dan Cawthorne, aged 28, has decided on a career change after working as a design engineer to open the clinic with business partner Louise Fitzpatrick.

He started to help market and sell treatment machines made by Aurox Aesthetics Ltd including at trade and consumer shows across the country. But the pair decided to set up their own business in Great Barr as a base to showcase the equipment.

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FOCUS ON WEDNESBURY

Food banks to get £75k hand-out from council

A RAFT of of one-off grants to food banks totalling £75,000 will be made to help families after being approved by a borough finance chief.

Bosses at Sandwell Council say they are growing increasingly concerned about the number of people in crisis. Chiefs at the Labour-dominated authority, say that is down to the impact of Government cuts.

By Alex Homer

The authority's finance boss, Councillor Steve Eling said: "It worries me that we're turning into begging bowl Britain. It really is sad to think of so many families having to ask for help."

Councillor Eling approved the following one-off grants at a meeting last week – West Bromwich food bank to receive £30,000; Smethwick food bank £24,000; Wednesbury food bank (Breaking Bread) £12,000; Tipton food bank (The Well) £6,000 and Rowley food bank (The James Project) to receive £3,000.

The money has come from a Government grant which was introduced when the Department for Work and Pensions' social fund was abolished.

The funding was not ring-fenced so could have been invested in other areas like the council's children's services department but bosses chose to put some of the money into food banks instead.

Previously people in need of help, who were referred by the council, were directed to collect food parcels from West Bromwich food bank, but there are now so many people asking, that the council decided to support similar operations.

Bathroom firm has a new base

A BLACK Country bathroom firm has moved to new premises.

Aqualux Products had been located at Universal Point, Steelmans Road, Wednesbury, since 2005.

The firm, part of the Fetim Group, completed its switch to its new 57,058 sq ft home at Solar Park, Solihull, in January.

Manufacturing business LoneStar Group is to create its new £7.5m 115,000 sq ft headquarters, safeguarding more than 300 jobs, on the former Aqualux site. Work on refurbishing and modernising the site began this month.

Employees from the firm's existing fasteners and sealing products sites in the Black Country – two at Willenhall and another at Bilston – will transfer to the new site along with staff from the head office in Kennicott House in Wednesfield.

Morgan in homes hope

WOLVES owner Steve Morgan's housing company Redrow Homes has unveiled plans to expand its canalside development in the Black Country.

The firm has applied to Wolverhampton City Council to build an additional 35 homes. The firm hopes to build apartments and houses on the site, off Salop Street, Bilston and near to the Wednesbury Oak Loop Canal, as part of the project.

United Carpets improves

UNITED Carpets says that sales improved in the second half of its financial year.

The chain, which has stores in Cannock, Dudley, Shrewsbury, Wednesbury and Wolverhampton, said like-for-like sales for the first 21 weeks were up 5.4% on the previous year which was affected by heavy snowfall.

WALSALL Pic Trevor Roberts Pic for Express and Star Pictures of 8 year old

Chanel's cutting it for charity

SCHOOLGIRL Chanel Barnard decided to cut her hair to help needy children.

The Priory Primary School pupil, aged eight, who lives in Wednesbury, found out about a charity called The Little Princess Trust. The organisation helps provide real-hair wigs to boys and girls who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment.

Chanel pleaded with her mother Stacey Hawkes, aged 28, to allow her to trim her own hair to help the cause. Stylists from Emma Hannah Hair and Beauty, in Coronation Road, Wednesbury, were tasked with making the crucial cut.

But when staff heard about her challenge they offered to donate the price of her cut to the good cause. Stacey's mother Carol also gathered generous donations from Hall Green car home where she works. Almost £200 was collected.

New plans for homes at church

FRESH plans have been lodged for the conversion and refurbishment of a former vandal-hit church into eight homes.

The proposals by SAP Developments Limited involve converting the former St Andrew's Church, in Darlaston, into eight, one bedroom apartments.

An initial planning scheme prompted campaigners to call for the preservation of the church'es historic stained glass windows, and £20,000 was awarded by Walsall Council to cover the cost of installing them in special frames to be displayed in the community.

The church, in Darlaston Road, was built in 1893 to accommodate a rising population in the area, but it closed for worship in 2009. Pastoral care was taken over by St Bartholomew's church in Wednesbury.

Lighting to be replaced

MORE than £500,000 will be invested in street lighting in Sandwell. Bosses say the move will help them tackle rising energy costs.

Up to 530 existing street light columns and LED lanterns will be replaced under the scheme- which is expected to save around 55 per cent on energy costs.

The new systems will mean that the council will be able to reduce the number of lights that are on.

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NEWS

No waiting as scheme is on track, say chiefs

THESE dramatic images reveal the extent of the transformation that HS2 could make to the centre of Birmingham.

Experts hope the new city centre station will give the economy a £1.3 billion annual boost and create 14,000 jobs.

The Birmingham Curzon HS2 masterplan will transform 141 hectares and was has been unveiled by Birmingham City Council.

At the heart of the scheme will be a new city centre station – Birmingham Curzon – where HS2 will terminate on its 49-minute journey from London.

Developments surrounding the station will make this one of the largest urban regeneration schemes in Britain, and the largest redevelopment so far announced on the back of the high-speed line.

Proposals include the creation of over 14,000 jobs, 600,000 sq metres of new employment space and 2,000 new homes.

Council chiefs say the massive cash injection will support the city's creative, learning and research sectors and the booming professional and financial services industry.

The unveiling of the plans came despite cross-party backing for the £42 billion line being thrown into doubt. Tory and Labour MPs from flood and storm ravaged constituencies said they would refuse to support the line unless major improvements were made to the West Country railway network.

City leaders in Birmingham however hailed the potential of HS2 as a catalyst for urban regeneration and called on political leaders to push ahead with the rail scheme and help unlock growth across the country. The Curzon HS2 Masterplan is the latest multi-million pound boost for Birmingham's city centre. The £600 million transformation of New Street Station will be completed next year along with a £128 million Midland Metro extension linking the station with the tram line at Snow Hill.

The new Curzon envisaged station in Birmingham under the impressive canopy

The remarkable-looking building which will be part of the HS2 masterplan

Proposals have also been tabled for Paradise Circus in the heart of the city including a second Metro tram extension continuing on from New Street Station to Centenary Square.

Eastside City Park was the first new city centre park in Birmingham for more than 130 years when it opened right next to Curzon Street in December 2012, and the critically-acclaimed £188 Library of Birmingham opened last year – proving a magnet for tourist and a centre for learning since.

Sir Albert Bore, leader of Birmingham City Council said: "We're not waiting around for HS2 to get built before we get started."

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CLUB NEWS

Castle the venue for first outing

PELSALL E TG

TUTBURY Castle, near Burton-on-Trent, was the venue for the club's first outing in 2014.

The curator Lesley Smith gave a fascinating talk about witchcraft, and looked the part too, in 'tatty' dress, bare feet and tousled hair. This was followed by a cream tea, where a transformed Lesley chatted at length about the castle's history and her forthcoming wedding.

During the formal section of the February meeting members were informed of the change of venue for the Federation Dinner on March 27. It will now be held at the Masonic Hall, Aldridge.

As the meeting on the March 20 is the AGM. when a new committee will be elected, retiring officers were presented with bouquets in appreciation of their work and dedication over several years.

Speaker Tony Hunt spoke in detail about the notorious Dr Palmer, the Rugeley Poisoner, who was hanged outside Stafford Gaol on June 14 1856.

The raffle was won by Jane Fraser and the competition for a wooden object was won by Ann Sale's antique cigarette dispenser.

Pelsall Guild meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7.45pm at Pelsall Community Centre, Station Road, Pelsall.

For more, contact Val Walker on 01922 684724, or Margaret Worrall on 01922 682466.

Pair bridge gap at annual tournament

From left, John Sheppard, Keith Perry and Michael Dainty

SEDGLEY BRIDGE CLUB

SEDGLEY Bridge Club held their annual bridge championship and the winning participants were John Sheppard and Michael Dainty.

The victors can be seen above, proudly pictured with the Tipton And Coseley trophies, which were presented to them by Keith Perry.

Sedgley Bridge Club meets every Thursday afternoon and guests and new members are always welcome.

The venue is the Sedgley and District Community Centre, Ladies Walk, Sedgley. Besides duplicate on Thursday, rubber bridge is played at the centre on a Wednesday afternoon.

Friday afternoon is a learner and improvers' session.

For more information on the club and its activities, ring Stanley on 01902 561908 or Keith on 01902 671728.

Talk will be as easy as ABC

WARLEY /BEARWOOD AFTERNOON GUILD

THE club meets, usually, on the third Monday in the month from 2-4pm in Warley Woods Methodist Church Hall, Abbey Road, Smethwick.

It runs drama and Scrabble groups and has a luncheon club and from time to time organises visits to places of interest.

Monday, March 17 will be the group's AGM and there will also be a presentation by Mary Bodfish who is due to give a talk entitled Easy as ABC about the development of writing.

Refreshments are served and there will be a raffle. Meetings cost £1 and new members are welcome. On Monday April 28, Arthur Casey will give a talk on The Croome, Worcestershire and Bunston, Missouri Connection. This is the fourth Monday in the month as the third is Easter Monday.

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NEWS

NHS staff's pledge to be at their best

Jackie Lynton, David Higgs, Sharon Reynolds and Linda Pascall are pledging to improve the small things for patients

IT is the little things that count – hospital staff have made pledges to make people's time in care just a little bit easier.

The pledges were made by staff at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust to coincide with NHS Change Day which took place on Monday.

They ranged from deputy chief nurse Linda Pascall's personal pledge to feed at least one patient each month who needs help to eat. She has also vowed to shake the hand of every one of the trust's ward service officers.

The trust has also created a so-called pledge tree, sited in the main reception at Rowley Regis Hospital.

This is a tree where staff can write their pledges on paper leaves and attach them to the tree.

Delighted

The aim is to create a spring-time tree with many leaves, bringing it to life after a long winter.

Jackie Lynton, head of transformation at the NHS Horizons Group – NHS Improving Quality, has visited Sandwell General Hospital to meet staff and hear about the pledges they had already made. Deputy chief nurse Linda was the face of the trust's campaign to get as many staff as possible to make a pledge for the big day.

She said: "I am delighted to take on the role of encouraging my colleagues to make their pledges in order to improve lives.

"I've made several, including pledging to spend time every month feeding a patient who needs help to eat, and to shake the hand of every one of our ward service officers – our unsung heroes!"

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CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE.

NEWS

Appeal on bag snatch

POLICE are appealing for information after two men on a motorbike snatched a handbag from a woman. The 61-year-old was walking along Ford Street, Smethwick, at around 2.30pm on Friday, February 28, when she was dragged to the floor by one of the men and her handbag stolen before the two men drove off.

The woman was left unhurt but shaken by the ordeal and detectives are appealing for any witnesses to come forward. Anyone with information that could help the investigation is urged to call Sandwell police on 101.

Drivers in taxi rank spaces call to council

BLACK cab drivers in Sandwell are calling for extra spaces at a taxi rank outside West Bromwich bus station. The association of Hackney Carriage Drivers wants a larger rank outside the bus station in St Michael Street.

Members claim the council is not listening to their call for extra spaces – but councillors have hit back, insisting they have been looking into the matter.

by Simon Stone

Mazhar Hussain, who is one of the organisation's representatives within the borough explained: "All we are asking for is around 15-20 dedicated spaces for black cabs outside the bus station.

"At the moment there are only four spaces that we are having to compete for with private hire drivers and when we wait elsewhere we are moved on by traffic wardens.

"It's difficult enough out there as it is.

"We are going through a time of recession and fewer people are using taxis, but we don't seem to be getting the help that we need."

Authorities

Mr Hussain said: "We go to council meetings but they already seem to have made a decision before we get there and we are not being properly listened too."

He said that the 250 Hackney carriage drivers in Sandwell were having to pay more for their driver and vehicle licence than other local authorities.

"I have worked in other boroughs as a driver before and they all seem to get much more support from the council," he said.

"These additional spaces and a reduction in licensing fees would make a massive difference to hard-working drivers in Sandwell," added Mr Hussain.

The drivers' representative, Mr Hussain, has around 20 years' experience himself behind the wheel of a black cab.

Councillor Maria Crompton, cabinet member for highways and environment, explained the council's position on the matter.

She said: "We have looked at this problem of taxi ranks in the bus station area at West Bromwich on several occasions.

"We did try to provide a rank on a service road near the bus station but we ran into pedestrian safety concerns."

The council recently provided a taxi rank to allow spaces for six vehicles on St Michael's Street and another new rank outside The Public building as part of the Tesco development.

The highways chief added that the council were looking into the provision of additional ranks in West Bromwich, which would be as part of future development proposals for the town centre and there had already been discussions of proposals with drivers.

Councillor Crompton concluded: "As far as the licence fees are concerned, the council has not increased them for five years and we have recently approved increases in the Hackney charges that can be made on the meter."

Sandwell age UK

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NHS HEROES

Calm Colin's the man for making things happen

SOMETIMES it's a question of life or death for Emergency Medicine Consultant Colin Holburn, who deals calmly with every crisis, maintaining a professional service with a very human touch.

As clinical lead for Emergency Medicine for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, Colin is also the Trust's lead for emergency planning, meaning he steps up in a major incident to co-ordinate the Trust's response.

He also is there to ensure that the trust is able to continue providing care even in exceptionally challenging situations, and that all patients receive the treatment they need.

He was on duty the time that A&E burned down at Sandwell Hospital in 2002.

He recalled: "The priority was to get all the patients and staff out safely, and worry about how it happened later. Rebuilding both the physical department and the staffing team was a big job, but very rewarding."

Enjoyment

The emergency department is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and shifts cover round the clock. Colin explained: "One of the great things about emergency medicine is that no shift is typical and that adds to my enjoyment of the speciality.

"You can't predict who will be the next patient you see, and with the four hour target we don't have our patients in the department for very long.

"There is a great team effort involved in meeting the target and my part in it is to make sure that timely decisions are made for patients.

"It also means that in some instances the patient needs to remain in the Emergency Department longer than four hours if their clinical condition requires it.

"Providing high quality care for patients is not just a line, it is a mission for us."

Colin, aged 56, credits the best-selling English Canadian author Malcolm Gladwell with having an influence over his thinking.

Questions such as 'What is the difference between choking and panicking?' and 'Why are there dozens of varieties of mustard-but only one variety of ketchup?' have ignited his imagination.

A qualified pilot, Colin abandons his fear of heights only when he takes to the skies, and likes nothing more than exploring the world through a lens as he is a keen amateur photographer.

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes from a wide variety of backgrounds, doing a wide variety of jobs, in one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations – Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally. Last year, the trust saw a patient on a face-to-face basis one and a half million times and provides care from 150 locations, as well as in the comfort of your own home.

This week we highlight: COLIN HOLBURN

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NEWS

Meeting in park led to 60 years' wedded bliss

Ready to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary, Walter Moore and his wife Pauline Moore, of Tipton

THEY strolled home from school arm-in-arm and 60 years later these childhood sweethearts are still inseparable.

Growing up, Pauline and Walter Moore, both aged 77, attended the former Park Lane Secondary Modern Boys' and Girls' School, in Tipton.

One lunchtime when they were both with friends in nearby Victoria Park, Walter plucked up the courage to go and speak to her. They met every day and walked home together to where they both lived in Horseley Heath. They were married when they were just aged 17 at Hydes Road Register Office, in Wednesbury, on February 27, 1954.

Mr Moore worked at non ferrous rolling metal Ratcliffs as a metal shearer, staying at their Great Bridge plant for 30 years and then transferring to the Birmingham factory for 14 years before he retired aged 62.

They settled in Tipton and have three children Annette, 59, Roger, 48, and 50-year-old Andrew, three grand children and two great grand children.

Both have been passionate Wolves fans for 50 years and are season ticket

Walter and Pauline at their wedding

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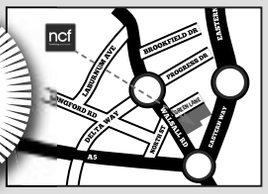

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What's On!

1960s and 70s pop legend returns

A HITMAKER of the rock 'n' roll era who found success again in the 1970s, Neil Sedaka, is back to tour the UK this autumn.

The 74-year-old New Yorker will be celebrating more than 50 years in popular music, success which began in 1959 with Oh! Carol. He had early 60s hits with Calendar Girl, Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen and signature song Breaking Up Is Hard To Do.

Sedaka relaunched his career in the 1970s, enjoying hits with Laughter In The Rain, Love Will Keep Us Together and Solitaire. He also co-wrote Peter Kay's favourite (Is This The Way To) Amarillo.

He is in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on November 3. Tickets are £50 and £45 plus fees. Call 0121 345 0600.

Bad Shepherds date for summer

COMEDIAN and singer Ade Edmondson is bringing his band back to the Black Country this summer.

Adrian Edmondson and the Bad Shepherds, who play punk rock songs on traditional instruments in a folk style, will be in concert at the Robin 2 in Bilston on June 15.

Advance tickets are £19.50 and the price on the door will be £22. Call 01902 401211.

Edmondson came to fame in the 1980s as punk student Vyvyan in TV series The Young Ones. The 57-year-old won Celebrity Masterchef last year and presents Ade In Britain.

Canadian crooner Bublé is ready to wow fans at the NIA

A brass task for revival

ACTORS visited the Black Country Living Museum to prepare for their roles in Brassed Off at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next month.

Cast members appeared with the Jackfield Elcock Reisen Brass Band, whose members played for guests at the attraction.

The National Brass Band Championship competitors, based in Shropshire, will be joining the actors on stage when the show runs at the Grand from April 8 to 12.

Conductor Chris Smith, a euphonium player, said: "It's great for the band to be involved with the play. It's been a wonderful experience for all of us."

The play, which follows the fortunes of a Yorkshire colliery brass band, has been revived this year in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the 1984 miner's strike.

To book tickets visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call (01902) 429212.

Brassed Off actors Luke Adamson and Andrew Dunn with band members at the museum

IT'S A Beautiful Day for Michael Bublé fans when the Canadian crooner arrives in the West Midlands next week for concerts at the National Indoor Arena on Wednesday and Thursday.

The 38-year-old singer, who has brought style and classy showmanship to the music scene in recent years, had major success last year with his latest album To Be Loved which yielded the hit singles It's A Beautiful Day, Close Your Eyes and After All.

Michael Bublé — NIA dates

The ice hockey loving showman was delighted during the recent Winter Olympics at Sochi when a medley of his tunes was used by US figure skaters Alex and Maria Shibutani for their routine.

His hit-packed set is likely to include Just Haven't Met You Yet and his sparkling versions of Cry Me A River, Feeling Good, To Love Somebody and Try A Little Tenderness.

Other gigs of the week include a St Patrick's Day warm up with The Dublin Legends – former members of The Dubliners – Sean Cannon, Eamonn Campbell, Patsy Watchorn and Gerry O'Connor at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow night.

Bombay Bicycle Club bring their indie rock sound to Brum's O2 Academy on Saturday, the same venue on Sunday night will be sold out for US pop-punk band All Time Low.

In the O2 Academy's second venue on Sunday The English Beat featuring Birmingham's own Dave Wakeling will revive 80s memories with Mirror In The Bathroom. And 2-Tone fans will be back on Thursday to see The Selecter.

Meanwhile, Chvrches are at Digbeth's Institute on Monday and 60s survivor Rodriguez, the maker of cult hit Sugar Man, plays the Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

Chelsea Joker and Sinnerman

COMEDIAN Joel Dommett performs in Wolverhampton as part of his debut stand-up tour tomorrow night (Friday).

The star of BBC's Impractical Jokers and the host of Made In Chelsea spin-off Live In Chelsea, Dommett takes the Slade Rooms stage in Broad Street from 8pm for his 'Practical Joker' show.

Dommett gained rave reviews for his debut Edinburgh Festival show Neon Hero in 2011 and follow-up Nunchuck Silver Medallist. Tickets are £11. Call 0870 320 7000.

Taking to the stage at the Slade Rooms tonight (Thursday) is ITV quiz chaser Paul Sinha. 'The Sinnerman', a qualified doctor, is also an accomplished stand-up comic. Tickets £13.20. Doors 7pm.

Fallen women theme to operas

FALLEN women are the theme for Welsh National Opera's spring season at Birmingham Hippodrome.

WNO stage Boulevard Solitude tonight, Hans Werner Henze's 1950s setting of the Manon Lescaut story. The more famous Manon Lescaut by Puccini, a UK debut for Polish director Mariusz Trelinski, is tomorrow. Verdi's tearjerker La traviata ends the season on Saturday.

The theme continues in Errollyn Wallen's Anon, a WNO production with Sampad South Asian Arts, at Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, on March 25 and at The Mac in Edgbaston on March 26.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 8.03.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Jonathan Ross

The Jonathan Ross Show ITV, 9.20pm
Jennifer Hudson has had an extraordinary decade. From being a runner-up on American Idol in 2004, to her Grammy-winning eponymous debut album, and her Oscar, Bafta, and Golden Globe-winning performance in Dreamgirls, she epitomises the American Dream. In the last of the current series, Jennifer drops into the studio to promote her UK concert for the Free the Children charity. Tycoon Richard Branson will also be discussing a life in business and daredevil adventures; Sue Perkins chats about the success of The Great British Bake Off.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm). John Inverdale introduces coverage of the opening match in the fourth round of the Six Nations championship. **4.25** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **4.40** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v France (Kick-off 5.00pm). Gabby Logan introduces coverage of the second match of the fourth weekend of the championship, staged at Murrayfield.
7.00 The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes host the final battle show, by the end of which Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Ricky Wilson and Will.i.am will be one step closer to choosing their acts.
9.10 The National Lottery Live.
9.20 Casualty. Iain tries to assist a distressed ex-Army friend, whose paranoia over his wife is at breaking point, while new nurse Lofty's keen eye helps save a young man.
10.10 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur and West Bromwich Albion v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.
11.45 The Football League Show. Highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Birmingham City v Queens Park Rangers.
1.05 Weatherview. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.00** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.30** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.00** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.30** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **9.00** Live Athletics. **11.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.15** Talking Pictures. **1.00 Film:** The Trouble with Harry. (1955) **2.35 Film:** The Man Who Knew Too Much. (1956) **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Live Athletics.
8.15 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring is determined that all his men should be well-shod and have battle-worthy feet, so he starts a regimen involving lengthy route marches. (R)
8.45 The Perfect Morecambe & Wise. Another selection of classic sketches and routines from the comedy duo's shows.
9.15 37 Days. The continental powers are pushed to the brink of war, and Sir Edward Grey seems unsure as to whether Britain should keep out of the impending conflict. Last in the series.
10.15 Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle. Another ramble through the mind of the comedian.
10.45 QI XL. Comedians Cal Wilson, Jack Whitehall and Jimmy Carr join Stephen Fry and regular panellist Alan Davies for an extended edition of the obscure general knowledge quiz.
11.30 Film: Milk. (2008) Biopic of politician and activist Harvey Milk, who became America's first openly gay elected official in the 1970s. Directed by Gus Van Sant and starring Sean Penn.
1.30 Film: Nemesis. (1992) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.00** Live FA Cup Football. **3.00** The Illusionists. (R) **4.05** The Chase. (R) **5.05** Off Their Rockers. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 You've Been Framed! Strikes Back! Comedy compilation of Harry Hill's most off-the-wall observations inspired by viewers' home videos, featuring potshots at popular culture.
7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The Geordie duo play an undercover prank on David Dickinson, go head to head in another round of Ant v Dec and join dance troupe the Mazeppa Cossacks in the End of the Show Show.
8.20 The Cube. A teacher and a pizza delivery man tackle a series of tough challenges, from agility tests to skills trials, aiming to win a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.
9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Jennifer Hudson, Richard Branson, Sue Perkins and Elbow.
10.20 ITV News; Weather.
10.35 FA Cup Highlights. Action from the sixth round.
11.25 All You Can Eat. Supersized meals, restaurant challenges and eating contests. (R)
12.20 Jackpot247.

CHANNEL 4

9.00 Live Paralympic Winter Games. Further coverage of the opening day of events in Russia. **11.30** The Morning Line. **12.30** Deal or No Deal. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Wolverhampton. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.10 Channel 4 News.
6.30 Paralympic Winter Games Highlights. Jonathan Edwards and Ade Adepitan present a look back at the opening day of events in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana, Russia, which included alpine skiing and wheelchair curling.
7.00 Crufts 2014. Clare Balding presents highlights from day three of the annual dog show held at the NEC in Birmingham, featuring coverage of the utility and toy group judging events.
9.00 Hostages. Duncan is ordered to tie up loose ends as investigators get nearer to uncovering the conspiracy, and the FBI agent takes the next step in his master plan by giving Ellen the poison.
10.00 Film: X-Men: The Last Stand. (2006) The mutant heroes battle old ally Jean Grey, returned from the dead as the destructive and seemingly unstoppable Phoenix. Superhero sequel, starring Hugh Jackman and Ian McKellen.
12.00 Film: Cloverfield. (2008) Found-footage monster thriller, starring Michael Stahl-David. **1.35** Blackout. (R) **2.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. (R) **5.05** Trans World Sport.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05 Film:** Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. **12.00 Film:** The Fifth Element. (1997) Sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis. **2.25 Film:** Wimbledon. (2004) Romantic drama, starring Kirsten Dunst and Paul Bettany. **4.10 Film:** Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.45 Film:** Columbo: Double Shock. (1973) Detective drama, with Peter Falk and Martin Landau.
7.00 NCIS. An explosion at a mausoleum exposes a number of freshly dismembered bodies, prompting the team to begin a multiple murder investigation. Abby has a personal problem to deal with. (R)
8.00 NCIS. A supposedly dead marine suddenly regains consciousness on the autopsy table, leaving the team struggling to solve the mystery of how he came to be in such a strange predicament. (R)
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 UFC Fight Night London: Live. Alexander Gustafsson v Jimi Manuwa. Coverage of the light heavyweight contest at the O2 in London, where rising British star Manuwa will be looking to record a surprise victory.
12.05 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Benidorm ER. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth **7.25** Doctor Who **8.15** Top Gear **9.15 Film:** Blades of Glory. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell, Jon Heder, Will Arnett and Amy Poehler. (2007) **10.45** Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Great Barrier Reef **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of South America **9.00** Salamander **10.35** Totally British 70s Rock 'n' Roll **11.35** The Ballad of Mott the Hoople
ITV2
2.45 Film: Curly Sue (1991) **4.50 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **7.00 Film:** The Incredible Hulk. Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton. (2008) **9.15 Film:** The Sweetest Thing (2002) **11.10 Film:** Pitch Black (2000)
ITV3
2.50 Film: Columbo: Troubled Waters (1975) **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost
ITV4
11.45 Live Darts. The UK Open. **5.00** Eric Bristow: Sports Life Stories **6.00** I Want That Car **7.00** Live Darts. The UK Open. **11.00 Film:** Jarhead (2005)
E4
3.30 The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Big Bang **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** Beverly Hills Cop II (1987)
Film4
3.05 August Rush (2007) **5.15** The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **7.05** St Trinian's (2007) **9.00** Knight and Day (2010) **11.10** Vanilla Sky (2001)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 9.03.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Jeremy Clarkson

Top Gear: Burma Special BBC2, 8pm

The first of a two-part programme in which Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May are challenged to build a bridge over the River Kwai in Thailand. In order to do that, however, they have to drive across Burma, a country that has been largely closed to Westerners for more than 40 years, and must make the trip in three lorries, each bought sight unseen from the internet on a limited budget. What follows is an epic journey of beautiful scenery, regular adversity, ongoing malfunction and the constant bickering of the three men.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **5.00** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **5.30** Songs of Praise.

6.05 BBC News

6.30 Blandings. Clarence grows a raggedy beard, much to the dismay of Freddie, who worries he has little chance of impressing Hollywood starlet Pauline Petite if his father looks like an old tramp.

7.00 Countryfile. Reports on the latest rural developments. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Call the Midwife. A new friendship grows for Jenny when she is introduced to a patient's male cousin, while Chummy discovers her mother has discharged herself from hospital. Last in the series.

9.00 The Musketeers. A young girl is killed after being hit by the royal carriage, and the Musketeers' investigations lead them to an extraordinary woman condemned to death for witchcraft.

10.00 BBC News

10.25 Film: Bruce Almighty. (2003) God tires of a reporter's constant complaining, so passes on His powers to give him a taste of real responsibility. Comedy, with Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman and Jennifer Aniston.

12.00 Film: Forget Me Not. (2010)

1.30 Weatherview. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15 Film:** Son of Kong. (1933) **7.15** Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **1.00** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **2.00** Live Athletics.

6.00 Flog It! Trade Secrets. Advice on making money from antiques and collectibles. (R)

6.30 Mystery of the Moor. Investigating Bronze Age burial items discovered on Dartmoor.

7.00 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom. A team of film-makers from the BBC's Natural History Unit and scientists from America's Smithsonian Institution venture into Burma's jungles to catalogue its species. (R)

8.00 Top Gear: Burma Special. Part one of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May travel through the wilds of Burma as they take three lorries on one of their toughest challenges to date.

9.00 Fast and Fearless: Britain's Banger Racers. Part one of two. Documentary following drivers at the Arena Essex Raceway.

10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Travel. Another themed selection from the show's archives. (R)

10.35 Line of Duty. R)

11.35 Film: The Killing Fields. (1984) Fact-based drama, starring Sam Waterston.

1.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)

2.45 Holby City. (R) **3.45** Silk. (R)

4.45 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.30** River Monsters. (R) **1.30** Live FA Cup Football. **4.20 Film:** Live and Let Die. (1973)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Dancing on Ice. Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley present the last-ever final, and a show full of surprises is promised as the three remaining celebrities battle it out. Last in the series.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry deals with a raft of problems on his return from Berlin – not least the news of Henri's arrest – while Delphine provides the beleaguered staff with a much-needed morale boost.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 Birds of a Feather. Tracey and Sharon worry about their future. Last in the series. (R)

10.45 FA Cup Highlights. Action from today's matches in the sixth round, which were Manchester City v Wigan Athletic, Hull City v Sunderland and Sheffield United v Charlton Athletic.

11.45 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. Northampton Saints v Saracens and Bath v Exeter Chiefs.

12.40 The Store. **2.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.10** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Live Paralympic Winter Games. Coverage of the second day of events in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. **11.00** Live Paralympic Winter Games. Further coverage of the second day of events in Russia. **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.30** How I Met Your Mother. **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** The Simpsons. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal.

6.00 Channel 4 News.

6.30 Paralympic Winter Games Highlights. Jonathan Edwards and Ade Adepitan present a look back at the second day of events in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana, Russia, which included alpine skiing and wheelchair curling.

7.00 Crufts 2014: Best in Show. Clare Balding presents highlights from the fourth and final day of Crufts, and the results of the 2014 dog hero, friends for life and best in show are announced. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: One Day. (2011) Premiere. The 20-year friendship between two university graduates is explored through the anniversaries of their first meeting. Romantic drama, with Anne Hathaway and Jim Sturgess.

11.05 Film: Working Girl. (1988) Comedy, starring Melanie Griffith.

1.15 The Good Wife. (R) **2.00** One Born Every Minute. (R) **2.55** Supernanny US. (R) **3.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.30** River Cottage Bites. (R) **4.50** Freesports on 4. **5.15** Arenacross. **5.45** Live Paralympic Winter Games. Coverage of the third day of events in Sochi.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.00** Access. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **2.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **3.00 Film:** Forever Young. (1992) **5.05** 5 News Weekend. **5.10 Film:** Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son. (2011)

7.10 Film: Hancock. (2008) Superhero comedy, starring Will Smith.

9.00 Film: Blade: Trinity. (2004) The vampire hunter and a team of ruthless human sidekicks face a showdown with Dracula himself. Action thriller sequel, starring Wesley Snipes, Jessica Biel and Ryan Reynolds.

11.00 Film: Beowulf. (2007) Motion-capture animated fantasy, starring Ray Winstone.

1.10 SuperCasino. **3.05** The Lost Orphan: A Home for Mirela. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 The Voice UK **9.15** Hair **10.15** Family Guy **10.55** Bluestone 42 **11.25** American Dad!

BBC Four

7.00 The Golden Age of Steam Railways **8.00** Shooting the Hollywood Stars **9.00** Good Swan, Bad Swan: Dancing Swan Lake **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30 Film:** We Have a Pope (2011)

ITV2

2.10 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **4.25** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.40 Film:** Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) **7.30 Film:** Batman & Robin. Comic-book adventure, starring George Clooney. (1997) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Party Wright Around the World **11.50** The Big Reunion 2014

ITV3

2.45 Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) **4.45** Lewis **6.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Inspector Morse

ITV4

12.45 Live Darts. The UK Open. **5.00** Police, Camera, Action! **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** Live Darts. The UK Open. **11.00** The Power of Darts

E4

3.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.00** The Tomorrow People **5.00** Troy **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Employee of the Month (2006) **10.10** The Big Bang Theory **10.40** How I Met Your Mother

Film4

3.00 Silent Running (1972) **4.50** Clueless (1995) **6.45** Dear John (2010) **8.50** Never Let Me Go Special **9.00** Good Morning, Vietnam (1987) **11.20** The Hills Have Eyes 2 (2007)

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What's On!

Film Choices

Monday
Lock Up, Channel 5, 11pm
A convict is transferred to a maximum security prison, where he falls foul of a sadistic warden with a grudge against him – and who abuses his position of power to make the inmate's life a misery and destroy his good relationship with the guards. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone, Donald Sutherland, Darlanne Fluegel and Tom Sizemore. (1989)

Tuesday
McBride: Murder Past Midnight, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The crusading lawyer is called up for jury duty in the case of a woman thought to have poisoned her wealthy husband. However, he ends up reluctantly agreeing to defend the accused when she is retried. Mystery, starring John Larroquette, Marta DuBois and Matt Lutz. (2005)

Wednesday
The Sea Inside, Channel 4, 12.50am
Fact-based drama about a fisherman who is paralysed from the neck down in a diving accident. After spending years dependent on others to take care of him, he decides to fight for the legal right to end his own life. Starring Javier Bardem, Belen Rueda, Lola Duenas, Mabel Ribera, Celso Bugallo, Clara Segura and Joan Dalmau. In Spanish, Catalan and Galician. (2004)

My Week with Marilyn, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

Thursday
My Week with Marilyn, BBC2, 9pm
A film student gets a job as a production assistant on the set of movie The Prince and the Showgirl. He bears witness to the clash of conflicting personalities between leads Marilyn Monroe and Laurence Olivier, and becomes a confidant of the troubled, lonely Hollywood actress. Fact-based drama, starring Michelle Williams, Eddie Redmayne and Kenneth Branagh. (2011)

Friday
The Last Station, BBC2, 11.05pm
A naive young man is appointed as the private secretary to the ageing Leo Tolstoy in 1910, but finds himself in the middle of a bitter conflict. The writer has embraced strong socialist and pacifist principles and wishes to leave everything to the people – but his wife does not want to give up his legacy. Period drama, with James McAvoy, Christopher Plummer and Helen Mirren. (2009)

Drillbit Taylor, Channel 4, 12.55am
Three kids fall foul of the local bully on their first day at high school, so they advertise for a bodyguard. They end up hiring a man who turns out to be a low-rent mercenary, but discover their new-found protector is not quite the hardened soldier of fortune he claims to be. Comedy, starring Owen Wilson. (2008)

Pick of the Week

The nurses who deliver more than just babies

The midwives will have to deliver some bad news this week – it's the last in the current series. And that will leave over eight million fans wondering exactly what to do with their Sunday evenings.

But just why has this tale of East End London in the days before the contraceptive pill been such a hit, while other, more hyped dramas, struggle to get half as many viewers?

Helen George, who plays the convent's resident blonde bombshell Trixie, has a couple of theories.

"I think it's partly because of the original memoirs that were written by Jennifer Worth. She'd created such beautiful stories and her memoirs were so wonderful, and then Heidi Thomas continued that when she adapted it for the screen, so I think it begins with the writing and the stories. If you've got a good story to tell, people want to listen.

"And then from that, the cast has been really great – it's wonderful that people like Pam Ferris and Miranda Hart wanted to do it.

"And I think it's a period of history that hasn't really been focused on in primetime TV, so there's an interest in that."

There's also an interest in the clothes, which Helen admits she's shares. "We've had an amazing costume designer, and I'm told vintage fashions suit me – it's a period that really accentuates a woman's curves.

"They hold you in all the right places, so it's quite flattering, although it's tough to eat on set sometimes – I'm sewn into my dresses and trousers because they are so tight. I'm thinking 'I can't even sit down properly, so eating pasta probably wasn't a good idea...'"

But while the mix of babies, Fifties frocks and cycling nuns may sound a bit twee, regular viewers will know that the show can also be hard-hitting – and some of those medical scenes aren't for the faint of heart.

Luckily, filming them isn't too much of an ordeal. Helen laughs: "It doesn't bother me, although I'm sure if in real life I was ever faced with one of these situations I'd be passing out on the floor. "Whilst it looks very realistic on the screen, we have this thing where the midwife on set holds a condom over the actress who's pretending to give birth, and she pops it when their waters break. You can't really feel squeamish because it's just a condom full of water!"

So, bear that in mind during any particularly graphic scenes in this episode as Jenny pays a visit to first-time mother Jeanette.

The two women quickly establish a rapport, which is just as well, as Jeanette needs frequent visits – and if that allows Jenny to see more of the mum-to-be's cousin Philip, that's just a perk of the job.

Do we sense another stylish Fifties wedding in the offing, or are we getting a bit ahead of ourselves?

Elsewhere, it looks like Chummy's nursing skills may be needed closer to home, as she discovers Lady Browne has discharged herself from hospital, leaving her daughter in despair.

The mums of Poplar have learned to heed Chummy's advice, so why won't her own mother listen to her?

Jessica Raine, Jenny Agutter and Judy Parfitt also star.

Miranda Hart stars in Call the Midwife, Sunday, BBC1, 8pm

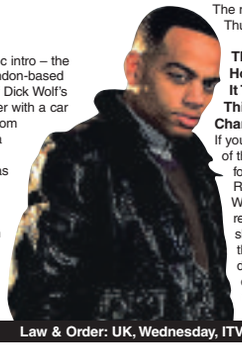
Best of the Rest

Monday
DCI Banks
ITV, 9pm
In the conclusion of a two-parter, and the current series, Alan's colleagues are tracking Tracy's phone records in the hope of getting a lead. While searching for his abducted daughter, Banks pressures Al to lead him to Jaffar, aka 'Jaff', but his request proves fruitless. Eventually Al does offer to help – at a price – and the detective considers breaking all the rules to meet his demands. Meanwhile, Morton is suspended following the result of Cabbot's internal investigation. With her job hanging by a thread, Tracy's life in danger and Banks 'in a bad place' as his relationship with Annie is close to snapping, the DCI is going to have to move heaven and earth to keep his family and colleagues together.

The Michael McIntyre Chat Show
BBC1, 10.35pm
Award-winning Michael McIntyre gives Graham Norton and Alan Carr a run for their money this week as he joins the ranks of comedian/chat show host. Hopefully he'll be able to get some top tips from veteran broadcaster Terry Wogan. Pop star Lily Allen faced the benign wrath of Miriam Margolyes the other week on Graham's Friday night show, so hopefully she'll be a little more animated here while plugging her new single Air Balloon. And Alan Sugar is always good fun on Norton's show, so let's hope McIntyre gets the best from him as well, or perhaps he'll be the one hearing those two fearful words which round off most editions of The Apprentice.

Tuesday
Shetland
BBC1, 9pm
Following its successful debut series last year, Shetland is back for a new run of three two-part stories. Yes, we know TV isn't exactly short of crime dramas, but this one promises to be a cut above the rest, and this time around, the adaptations of best-selling author Ann Cleeves' books will be a little darker and more atmospheric. Douglas Henshall is back as DI Jimmy Perez, and the opening instalment guest stars Scottish stalwart Brian Cox.

Wednesday
Law & Order: UK
ITV, 9pm
Once we get over that Shard-centric intro – the most ubiquitous building in any London-based drama these days – the new run of Dick Wolf's Blighty-based saga grabs the viewer with a car chase involving an Astra pinched from Kentish Town. However, thanks to a shock development, the car being pursued comes to a sudden stop, as does the twentysomething driver's life. A discovery in his boot proves even more shocking: a man in his sixties who may have already been dead when he was put there. New arrival DS Joe Hawkins (Ben Bailey Smith) tries to discover who the deceased was and how he died. Tricky as the deceased has no hands or teeth.


Law & Order: UK, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

Astronauts: Living in Space
Channel 4, 9pm
This new three-part documentary explores what it is like to live and work outside the Earth's atmosphere for months at a time. The stars of the show are astronauts Rick Mastracchio, Koichi Wakata and Mike Hopkins. They'll be revealing the effects of microgravity on their bodies, and demonstrate how everyday tasks such as eating, sleeping and washing are completed while weightless. We also get a rare insight into the International Space Station; how NASA supports the crews and families during their missions, and how astronauts adjust back to life on Earth. The next part can be seen on Thursday (March 13).

Thursday
Holiday Hit Squad
It Takes a Thief to Catch a Thief
Channel 5, 8pm
If you missed the first instalment of this new series last week, it follows reformed master thief Richard Taylor and policeman Will Davies as they show retailers how to deal with the shoplifters who are pinching their profits. This week, the duo are in Romford to visit a designer clothing store, and find that while managers Amber and Lou may be feisty, they are no match for organised gangs of thieves – especially as there's no CCTV to help them. Can a new consignment of security gadgets, and a masterclass from Richard in the tricks of the shoplifting trade cut down on the pilfering?

Friday
Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
Channel 4, 8pm
It took years to get established as a lucrative movie and TV franchise, but now the Marvel universe is expanding like a loaf with too much yeast. As any fan will tell you, Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) was apparently killed before the battle of New York during Avengers Assemble, but following his resurrection in this show last year, fans are desperate to see how he came back from the dead. Hopefully we'll find out a few answers this week as Coulson is grilled by the Centipede organisation.

Jonathan Creek
BBC1, 9pm
Despite his wife's phone call promising a low-key 40th birthday party, the lucky Home Office junior Minister at the heart of this final mystery has a real surprise in store: a marquee, loads of gathered friends, and state-of-the-art music to entertain the masses. Except the team from mobile music providers'Sound Trax' never quite make it to the event, and for the problem-solving genius organising the event she has no idea she's about to be kidnapped. Jonathan deduces that she may manage to send some coded SOS to the outside world. Could the phrase 'Waste not…' be the clue to cracking the case?

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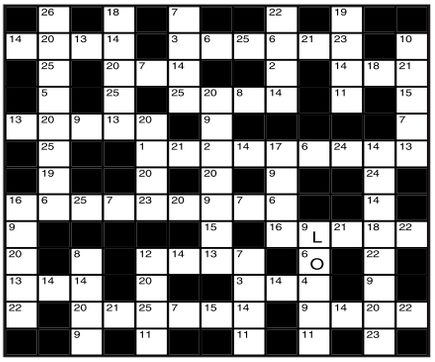
Brain Gym

No.263

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

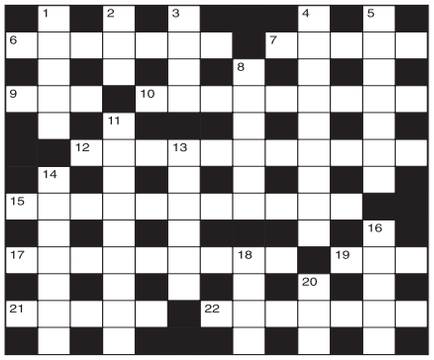


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
K	U	E	J	Y	T	L	G	Q	I	F	S	C
D	X	B	P	V	M	R	W	H	A	Z	O	N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. He doesn't give much away (7)

7. Let in or out (5)

9. It became yours (3)

10. Possibly ample here, but it doesn't last long (9)

12. Are those on it making an empty protest? (6,5)

15. Flighty artist's model (7,4)

17. Such speed could be fatal (9)

19. Margaret shortly turned to stone (3)

21. Polar story heard too often? (5)

22. A record? Yes, of course (3,4)

Down

1. Seeing sense (5)

2. Get on in stages (3)

3. Decline and fall (4)

4. Unemployed crew with mischievous potentialities (4,5)

5. Cafe and an inn combine somehow to make money (7)

8. Moving spirit (6)

11. It circulates records (9)

13. Vegetables on the course (6)

14. Render an account (7)

16. Opted to change a storehouse (5)

18. Meat axe (4)

20. A current recession (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Incapacitate (7)

7. Postpone (5)

9. Non-professional (3)

10. Unremitting (9)

12. Stamp collector (11)

15. Dispute (11)

17. Sycophant (9)

19. Artful (3)

21. Pretence (5)

22. Free (7)

Down

1. Essential (5)

2. Prohibit (3)

3. Scheme (4)

4. Stupid (9)

5. Sorrow (7)

8. Determine (6)

11. Stimulant (9)

13. Slacken (6)

14. Big rock (7)

16. Embrace (5)

18. Regular (4)

20. Wager (3)

Sudoku

2				8			4	5
3		4		9				
			3		7		8	
		6	7				2	
	4	1				8		
	2		8		4	5		6
	6		1		8			
		3				2		8
7	5			2			1	3

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	3	7	5	1	8	9	2	4
9	4	1	7	6	2	3	5	8
5	2	8	4	9	3	7	1	6
8	5	4	1	3	6	2	9	7
1	6	3	2	7	9	8	4	5
7	9	2	8	5	4	6	3	1
2	7	5	9	8	1	4	6	3
4	8	6	3	2	5	1	7	9
3	1	9	6	4	7	5	8	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Hunting season; 8 Continue; 9 Deed; 10 Weasel; 12 Ordeal; 14 Anklet; 16 Damson; 18 Aria; 20 Generate; 22 High and mighty. Down: 1 European; 2 States; 3 Anon; 4 Asteroid; 5 Raided; 6 Bole; 11 Litigant; 13 Apostate; 15 Loathe; 17 Mirage; 19 Rail; 21 Name. QUICK - Across: 7 Indispensable; 8 Dispense; 9 Room; 10 Caress; 12 Talent; 14 Recess; 16 Remote; 18 Chic; 20 Effusive; 22 Dispassionate. Down: 1 Indicate; 2 Simple; 3 Open; 4 Ancestor; 5 Barrel; 6 Also; 11 Suspense; 13 Nativity; 15 Escape; 17 Musing; 19 Hail; 21 Fair.

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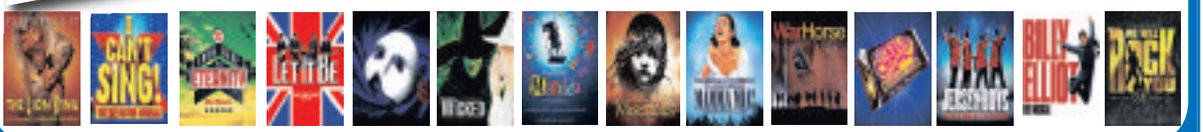

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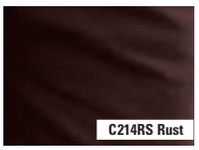
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7-3 Artists impression shows a typical property, interior photograph taken from another development. *Help to Buy is available on selected plots only, using our nominated independent financial advisors. Up to 20% funded as an equity loan, interest free for the first five years. From year six, interest will be charged at a rate of 1.75% rising annually by the increase (if any) in the Retail Price Index (RPI) plus 1%. Terms and conditions apply, available on request. All offers not in conjunction with any other offer. YOUR HOME MAY BE AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT. Prices correct at time of going to print. † Offer available on selected plots subject to terms and conditions..

Property

Ideal for larger family

AN impressive extended four bedroomed Victorian semi-detached property in Titford Road, Oldbury is ideal for a growing family or indeed an investor. It is for sale through the agent Love Your Postcode at offers in excess of £179,950.

It has three reception rooms, a spacious kitchen, utility, ground floor bathroom, four spacious first floor bedrooms, a shower room and off-road gated parking and a large landscaped rear garden, double glazing and gas central heating.The entrance hall has new laminate flooring. Contact WLYP on 0121 544 9595 or visit wlyp.co.uk

Taylors
www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

KINGSWINFORD
818 High Street
01384 401777

BRIERLEY HILL
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01384 265265

STOURBRIDGE
85 High Street
01384 395555

BEARWOOD
129 Poplar Road
0121 434 4345

HALESOWEN
21 Hagley Road
0121 550 3978

SEDGLEY
2A Dudley Street
01902 880888

Visit us at our website
www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

SMETHWICK
NEW INSTRUCTION
Thimblemill Road
An opportunity to acquire a well presented, spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, attractive lounge, dining/sitting room, re-fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 good sized bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, garage, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £164,950

OLDBURY
NEW INSTRUCTION
Landswood Road
A deceptively spacious, well presented, 3 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing, and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, delightful lounge, separate sitting room, breakfast area leading to kitchen, 2 double bedrooms (both with fitted wardrobes), bed 3/box room, shower room, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating F. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
OFFERS AROUND £163,950

QUINTON
NEW INSTRUCTION
Highfield Lane
An opportunity to acquire an extremely spacious, well presented 3 BEDROOMED ground floor maisonette conveniently situated, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful spacious lounge, conservatory, attractive fitted breakfast kitchen (with integral oven/hob and integrated fridge and freezer), 3 GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, attractive bathroom, PLEASANT REAR GARDEN, off road parking AND GARAGE at the front. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £119,950

SMETHWICK
NEW INSTRUCTION
Edward Road
Deceptively spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection and briefly comprising :- Front reception room, rear reception room, kitchen (with oven/hob), rear vestibule area, downstairs bathroom and 3 bedrooms. Viewing essential to appreciate the property. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £94,950

OLDBURY
4 BEDROOMS (MASTER WITH SHOWER ROOM EN-SUITE)
Warwick Road
An extremely spacious, delightfully presented and thoughtfully improved 4 BEDROOMED extended semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position within this popular neighbourhood, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, Delightful spacious through lounge, attractive conservatory, dining room, super re-fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c, 4 bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), superb re-fitted house bathroom, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £214,950

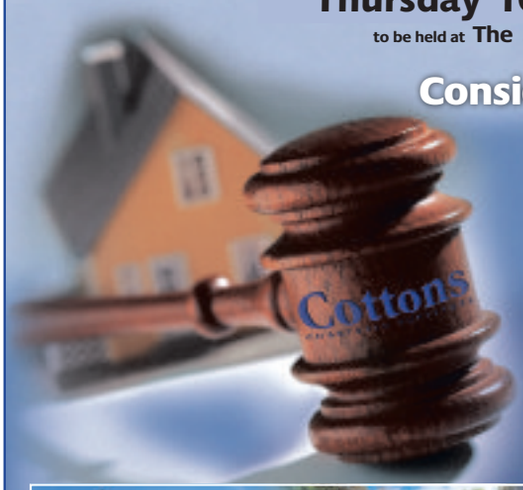
SMETHWICK
VIEWING ESSENTIAL
Woodbourne Road
Delightfully presented, considerably improved, 3 Bedroomed traditional style semi detached property in popular location, convenient for WARLEY WOODS, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing, and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, super fitted dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms (master with fitted wardrobes), bathroom, garage (having w.c off), and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £199,950

SMETHWICK
VIEWING ESSENTIAL
Hales Lane
An attractively presented, thoughtfully improved, 3 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property, conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious through lounge/dining area, attractive conservatory, re-fitted kitchen (with integral oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £129,950

OLDBURY
REDUCED
WAS £119,950 NOW £115,000
Cumberland Road
An attractively presented, thoughtfully improved, 2 bedroomed end position family home, conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood and requiring internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful through lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), 2 good sized bedrooms, attractive bathroom and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £115,000

SMETHWICK
NO UPWARD CHAIN
Milton Court, Sandon Road
A deceptively spacious, thoughtfully improved 2 bedroomed flat pleasantly situated within this retirement complex, most convenient for local shopping facilities available within Bearwood Town Centre, approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with intercom receiver), spacious lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, communal garden and communal parking area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.
Offers around £69,950

Forthcoming Auction
Cottons
CHARTERED SURVEYORS
Thursday 10th April 2014
to be held at The Aston Villa Football Club



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Fax: 0121 439 4616

BILSTON
LET AGREED
End Terrace, Porch, , Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Beds, Bathroom and gardens to front and rear. Must be viewed.
Slim Avenue £395 PCM

REDNAL
LET AGREED
Property comprises lounge, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 3 Beds, Garden, Off road parking. Close to local amenities.
Rise Avenue £525 p.c.m

TIPTON
NEW PRICE
Mid Terrace Family Home, Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Double Beds, Bathroom, Garden, Off Road Parking. Must be viewed.
Rowland Hill Drive £110,000

SUTTON COLDFIELD
Well presented 2/3 bed mid terrace, Seperate lounge and dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, Garden, Off Road Parking
Riland Avenue £625 P.C.M

We currently offer a general maintenance Service including painting and

GREAT BRIDGE
First floor apartment comprises entrance hall, fitted kitchen ,through lounge, bathroom and 2 double bedrooms. Communal gardens and parking.
FISHER STREET £52,950

OLDBURY
Three storey townhouse, close to local amenities, Fitted kitchen, Living room/diner, toilet, 3 Beds and family bathroom, Garden, Off Road Parking.
Merton Close £575.00 P.C.M

WEST BROMICH
Self contained office building. Comprises kitchen, off road parking, spacious yard area to rear, 5 offices over 2 floors together with toilet facilities. Multiple vehicle parking.
WILLIAM STREET 500 PCM

TIPTON
SSTC
Beautifully presented top floor flat comprising of: Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge with Feature Fire & Balcony, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom & Separate WC, Off Road Parking.
CHURCHFIELD AVE £52,950

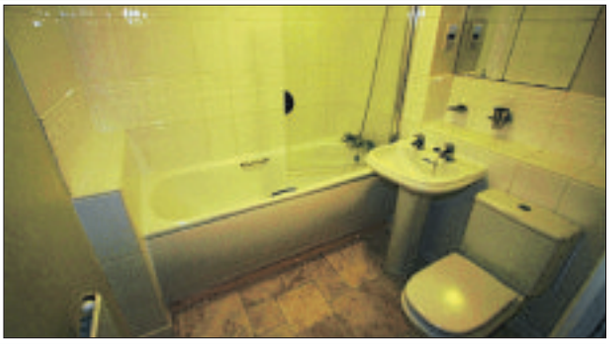
www.timothydaniels.co.uk info@timothydaniels.co.uk

Property

Apartment with great views of countryside

CASTLECROFT House, Wolverhampton, is a most attractive and imposing development of individual executive apartments constructed by Bellway Homes in 2004.

Residing within a unique and enviable position, encompassed by sporting grounds and cricket fields providing a lovely 'green' setting, number 36 Castlecroft House is an apartment with atop-floor position. It is thoughtfully laid out and benefits from interesting views. At £124,950, it offers stylishly-appointed living space. Call Steventon land and estate agent on 01902 753131.



Bartrams

TEL. 0121 601 9370
www.bartrams.com

WHITEGREAVE STREET, B70 9BB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden
- Freehold

£124,950

ARLINGTON ROAD, B71 1AA

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, Kitchen/Diner
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating, Freehold

£179,950

FLORENCE ROAD, B70 6LH

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- No Upward Chain

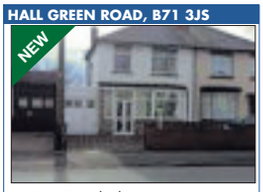
£99,950

COLLINS ROAD, WS10 0RZ

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Shared Driveway
- Freehold

£129,950

HALL GREEN ROAD, B71 3JS



- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Driveway And Garage
- Freehold

£144,950

CARNEGIE DRIVE, WS10 9HT

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Driveway & Garage
- Freehold

£209,950

HALLAM COURT, B71 2HT

- A First Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Credit Checks Required

£500 PCM £500 DEPOSIT

ST HELENS AVENUE, DY4 7LR

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating And Double Glazed
- Double Glazed

£525 PCM £525 DEPOSIT

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DZ

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway
- Refurbished
- Central Heating

£575 PCM £575 DEPOSIT

WYLD CLOSE, B71 2AY

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway
- Central Heating
- Kitchen/Diner

£575 PCM £575 DEPOSIT

BRACKENDALE DRIVE, WS5 4DA

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Master Bed With En-Suite
- Garage

£650 PCM £650 DEPOSIT

HIGH STREET, B70 6PP

- A Ground Floor Office Suite
- Two Office Areas, Kitchen Area
- Cellar, W.C
- Leasehold- New Agreement to be made.

£5,000 PER ANNUM

CARISBROOKE ROAD, WS10 0JB

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Rear Garden

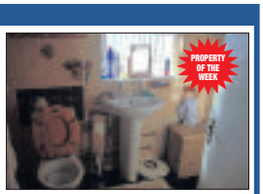
£99,950

ORCHARD ROAD, WS5 4HY

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Central Heating

£144,950

BASSETT ROAD, WS10 0HH



- A Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- Driveway
- Freehold

£94,950

YORK CRESCENT, B70 0JT

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms One With En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner

£164,950

MARSH LANE, B71 2DP

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- Conservatory

£99,950

CREED WAY, B70 9JW

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms, En Suite
- Central Heating and Double Glazed
- Freehold

£154,950

STANWAY GARDENS, B71 1RJ

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Freehold No Upward Chain

£99,950

MEYRICK ROAD, B70 0JW

- A Modern Town House
- Four Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Garage

£144,950

HOBART ROAD, DY4 9LQ

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Double Glazed

£117,500

HEATH LANE, B71 2BH

- A Detached Property
- Six Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Two Reception Rooms And Freehold

£299,950

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room

£99,950

Bartrams Sales and Lettings Limited
132 Walsall Road, Stone Cross, West Bromwich, B71 3HP

E-mail:enquires@bartrams.com

pauldubberley

the estate agent

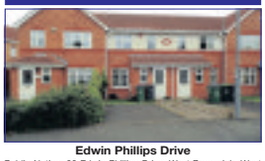
Residential Sales
Lettings
Property Management

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sheldon Road

PUBLIC NOTICE: 42 Sheldon Road, West Bromwich, B71 3DD. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £111,500. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.Energy Rating D

PUBLIC NOTICE



Edwin Phillips Drive

Public Notice: 22 Edwin Phillips Drive, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 2AZ. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £90,000. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. Energy Rating D

Canterbury Road West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- , Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

Salisbury Road West Bromwich — NEW

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Three Reception Rooms
- Upstairs Bathroom
- Energy Rating E, Garage To Rear

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

Mostyn Crescent West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Energy Rating E, Upstairs Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £130,000
Viewing:

Hill Top West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- Energy Rating TBC, Parking To Rear

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

Hydes Road West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached Property
- Downstairs WC
- Two Reception Rooms
- Energy Rating TBC, Upstairs Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £135,000
Viewing:

Meyrick Road West Bromwich — NEW

- End Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- En Suite To Master Bedroom
- Energy Rating B, Upstairs Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £142,950
Viewing:

Whitgreave Street West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Upstairs Shower Room
- Energy Rating D, Lounge And Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: £139,500
Viewing:

Greenwood Road West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Energy Rating TBC, Off Street Parking

OFFERS AROUND: £134,950
Viewing:

Florence Road West Bromwich — NEW

- Traditional Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- , Ideal First Time Purchase

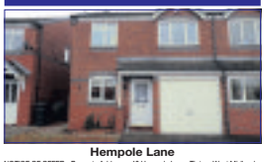
OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

PUBLIC NOTICE

Purcell Road

35 Purcell Road Wolverhampton WV10 9EH.
We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £59,950. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC Rating D

PUBLIC NOTICE



Hempole Lane

NOTICE OF OFFER:- Property Address:- 40 Hempole Lane, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 0HQ. We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £124,950. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Paul Dubberley & Co, 73 Great Bridge, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 7HF - Tel 0121 522 3733 - EPC Rating D.

Carden Close West Bromwich

- Purpose built first floor flat
- Upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- No upward chain 2 bedrooms
- EPC Rating C, Ideal buy to let investment

OFFERS AROUND: £49,950
Viewing:

Scott Street Tipton

- Modern terrace / coach house
- Upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- No upward chain
- 2 bedrooms, epc C

OFFERS AROUND: £82,500
Viewing:

PUBLIC NOTICE

Edward Road

Paul Dubberley & Co are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £76,000 for 2 Edward Road, Tipton, DY4 0NP. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Paul Dubberley & Co, 73 Great Bridge, Tipton, DY4 7HF, 0121 522 3733 prior to exchange of contracts. EPC D

Sannders Crescent Tipton

- Modern 2.5 storey town house
- Upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- Spacious family accommodation
- 3 bedrooms + en suite, Reception Hal + guest

OFFERS AROUND: £129,950
Viewing:

Geneva Road Tipton

- Semi detached
- Corner plot
- Upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- 3 bedrooms, epc E

OFFERS AROUND: £94,950
Viewing:

Alma Avenue Tipton — REDUCED

- Extended traditional semi detached
- Upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- 3 Bedrooms, Improved accommodation
- Epc D, Porch + reception hall

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing:

Isaac Walton Place West Bromwich

- End terrace
- Upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- 3 Bedrooms, No upward chain
- Epc D, Reception hall

OFFERS AROUND: £89,950
Viewing:

Darbys Way Tipton

- Modern 3 storey end town house
- 4 Bedrooms, Large family accommodation
- Upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- Epc, Reception hall + guest cloakroom

OFFERS AROUND: £150,000
Viewing:

Darbys Way Tipton

- modern corner position semi detached
- upvc double galzing + gas central heating
- 4 Bedrooms, spacious family accommodation
- epc, reception hall + guest cloakroom

OFFERS AROUND: £174,950
Viewing:

Middle Meadow Tipton

- Modern luxury ground floor apartment
- UPVC double glazing + gas central heating
- Good size well presented accommodation
- EPC B, 2 bedrooms

OFFERS AROUND: £66,500
Viewing:

Camborne Road Walsall — NEW

- Top Floor Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Lounge & Kitchen
- , Bathroom With White Suite

OFFERS AROUND: £67,500
Viewing:

Wolverhampton Street Wednesbury — NEW

- A 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace Home
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (as spec.)
- EPC Rating: TBC, Ideal Investment Opportunity

OFFERS AROUND: £80,000
Viewing:

Wiley Avenue Darlaston — NEW

- An Extended 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating
- Sizeable Accommodation with No Upward Chain!
- EPC Rating: 65, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

Burns Road Wednesbury — NEW

- A Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Conviniently Located for Nearby Towns
- UPVc Windows (where spec.)
- EPC Rating: 40, Reception Hall & Guest WC

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Vimy Road Wednesbury — NEW

- A 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as spec.)
- No Upward Chain!
- EPC Rating: 62, Storm Porch & Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £95,000
Viewing:

Cobham Road Wednesbury — NEW

- An Immaculate 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace Home
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (As spec.)
- Energy Rating C, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

206 Old Birchills Walsall — NEW

- Grade II Listed Loch Cottage
- Recently Refurbished
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC Rating: D, Refitted Breakfast Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Manifold Way Wednesbury — NEW

- A 2 Bedroom Ground Floor Apartmentq
- No Upward Chain!
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC Rating: C, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £69,950
Viewing:

Wharfedale Street Wednesbury — REDUCED

- 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- No Upward Chain!
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as spec.)
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden, Short Walk to

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Friar Park Road Wednesbury — NEW

- A 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace Home
- Double Glazing (as specified)
- Gas Central Heating
- EPC Rating B, Lounge with Feature Fireplace

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

Foley Street Wednesbury — NEW

- A Traditional 3 Bedroom Terrace Home
- Gas Central Heating Double Glazing
- Reception Hall
- EPC Rating: E, Lounge with Log Effect Stove

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Bagnalls Wharf Wednesbury — REDUCED

- A Modern 2 bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Electric Storage Heating
- Double Glazed
- EPC Rating: D, Recenly Built

OFFERS AROUND: £80,000
Viewing:

Gillingham Close Wednesbury — REDUCED

- A 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Cul-d-Sac Location & No Upward Chain!
- Reception Hall
- EPC Rating: 52 (E), Lounge & Separate Dining

OFFERS AROUND: £130,000
Viewing:

Walsall	Tipton	Willenhall	Bilston	Wednesbury	West Bromwich
01922 241100	0121 5223733	01902 633323	01902 494966	0121 5053533	0121 5252111

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APEX ESTATE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Let Through One Of Sandwell's Oldest Letting Agent!

WEST BROMWICH
RUTLAND ROAD
APPLICATION IN
A good size 3 bedroom semi-detached property, spacious lounge, kitchen with white goods, downstairs w.c, first floor bathroom. central heated and double glazed. Private drive for numerous cars.
£620 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
MEYRICK ROAD
Modern 3 bedroom semi-detached property, spacious lounge, central heated and double glazing, off road parking. Available unfurnished. must be viewed to be appreciated.
£695 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
JAMES EATON CLOSE
A spacious 2 bedroom bunglow near the Sandwell hospital, good size reception room. Kitchen with white goods, Off road parking. Can be furnished.
£625 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
GORDON AVENUE
APPLICATION IN
Spacious 3 bdroom property, kitchen with dining area, central heated and double glazed. First floor bathroom. Must be viewed to be appreciated. Near the Menzies school and college.
£550 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
KINITHS CRESCENT
LET
3 bedroom semi-detached property in a prime location, spacious through lounge, first floor bathroom, central heated and double glazed, off road parking. High spec finished. must be viewed.
£600 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
IRELAND GREEN ROAD
3 bedroom link detached property, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen and shower room. 3 good size bedrooms. Private drive and garage. Available unfurnished
£650 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
WOOD LANE
LET
3 bedroom end of terrace property, 2 reception rooms, ch and dg. ground floor bathroom with overhead shower. available unfurnished.
£499 pcm

DUDLEY
SOUTHGATE WAY
Modern 2 bedroom aprtment, open plan kitchen. fitted bathroom. economy heating and double glazed through out. designated parking. Available unfurnished. Must be viewed
£495 pcm

WEST BROWICH
EUROPA AVENUE
Spacious 4 bedroom property in the sandwell valley area, Reception room, dining area, spacious kitchen, first floor bathroom. Off road parking. Unfurnished
£750 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
JEFFERSON PLACE
Modern ground floor apartment situated near sandwell hospital off Grafton road, spacious open plan kitchen and lounge, 1 bedroom, fitted bathroom. secure allocated parking.
£430 pcm

WEDNESBURY
ELWELL STREET
LET
First floor one bedroom flat, spacious lounge, ch and Dg, Must be viewed. Modernised.
£400 pcm

OLDBURY
KNOTTSALL LANE
NEW
Beautiful 1 bedroom first floor flat, central heated and double glazed, spacious lounge and bedroom, communal car park.
£495 pcm

7 Bull Street, West Bromwich, B70 6EU
Tel: (0121) 532 2700 email: enquiry.support@apexproperties.co.uk

A reputation built on 40 years of
Quality, Professionalism and Expertise

0121 4299986 Hagley Road Office

Robert Oulsnam and Company
oulsnam
Incorporating Laing & Co

NEW
Vince Street, Smethwick
- Beautifully Presented Terrace
- Stylish Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Viewing Essential
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £114,950

NEW
Bishopton Road, Bearwood
- Stunning Traditional Terrace
- Stylish Kitchen & Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £167,500

NEW
Bowling Green Drive, Smethwick
- Most Attractive Semi Detached
- Ground Floor WC
- Three Bedrooms
- Parking & Garage
- Dining Kitchen
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £150,000

Edenhall Road, Quinton
SSTC... MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

Thimblemill Road, Bearwood
SSTC... MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

NEW PRICE
Park Road, Bearwood
- Traditional End Terrace
- Requires Modernisation
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £144,950

Upper St Marys Road, Bearwood
SSTC... MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

Swindon Road, Edgbaston
SSTC... MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

NEW
Glyn Farm Road, Quinton
- Well Maintained Semi Detached
- Double Garage
- Three Bedrooms
- Superb Rear Garden
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £154,950

NEW
Pargeter Road, Bearwood
- Well Presented Terrace
- Period Features
- Three Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Modern Extended Kitchen
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £174,950

NEW
Barston Road, Oldbury
- Traditional Semi Detached
- Off Road Parking
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £144,950

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Residential Sales & Lettings

WEDNESBURY, Brunswick Park Road £260,000

WortonKelly are delighted to offer for sale this generously sized four bedroomed property located on Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury. With no upwards chain, this property comprises of; a lounge/diner as well as two further reception rooms, a spacious fitted kitchen, a wet room, a family bathroom and separate toilet. This property also offers to the rear of the vicinity multiple outbuildings and a garage. Also accommodating a driveway to the front. A viewing is highly recommended to truly appreciate this property.
Energy Rating 58 (D).

OLDBURY, Barnford Crescent £225,000

Wortonkelly are delighted to offer for sale this well presented, five bedroomed semi-detached house. This property offers to you; an entrance hall leading to two reception rooms, a cloakroom and a fitted kitchen to the ground floor along with five bedrooms and a family bathroom to the first floor. Also accommodating a garage and off road parking to the front and a garden to the rear of the vicinity. Also benefiting from double glazing and central heating where specified.
EPC-TBC.

WEDNESBURY, Holyhead Road £87,950

WortonKelly are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroomed property located on Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. This property offers; two bedrooms, a lounge, a kitchen and a bathroom. This property also facilitates a private parking space along with communal gardens to both the front and rear of the vicinity. A viewing is recommended.
Energy Rating 63 (C).

WALSALL, Harebell Close £80,000

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer for sale, with no upwards chain, this one bedroom house located in Harebell Close, Walsall. This property offers to you; one bedroom, a kitchen, a lounge and a family bathroom. Also benefitting from double glazing and central heating where specified. Ideal for first time buyers. A viewing is highly advised to truly appreciate what this property has to offer.
Energy Rating 80 (C).

WEST BROMWICH, John Street £90,000

A well-presented semi-detached property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, One Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Garden, Central Heating and Double Glazing where specified. ●● No Upwards Chain! ●●
EPC- TBC

WEST BROMWICH, Lincoln Road £95,000

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer for sale this well presented house located on Lincoln Road, West Bromwich. This property briefly comprises of two bedrooms, a lounge, a kitchen, a bathroom and accommodates a garden to the rear of the vicinity. Also benefiting from double glazing and central heating where specified.
EPC-TBC.

WEST BROMWICH, Coles Lane £108,000

A well presented traditional extended semi detached family home. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Down Stairs WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Rear Garden, Central Heating and Double Glazing Where Specified. Viewing Essential.
Energy Rating 50 (E).

WEST BROMWICH, Andrew Road £135,000

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer for sale this well presented, with no upwards chain, three bedroomed semi detached property located on Andrew Road, West Bromwich. Comprising of; three bedrooms, a lounge with through dining area, a fitted kitchen, a family bathroom and a conservatory. This property also accommodates a driveway to the front of the premises and a garden to the rear. Also benefitting from double glazing and central heating where specified.
EPC-TBC.

WEST BROMWICH, Andrew Road £145,000

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer for sale this well presented semi detached property, perfect for creating the desired family home. This property offers to you; three bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, cloakroom, family bathroom, conservatory, a garden to the rear and a driveway to the front. In addition, this accommodation benefits from having double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is highly recommended for you to truly appreciate this property.
Energy Rating 4 (G).

BIRMINGHAM, Greenridge Road £160,000

A well presented semi detached property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating where specified. Viewing is highly recommended.
Energy Rating D (55)

WEST BROMWICH, Charlemont Crescent £220,000

WortonKelly are pleased to offer for sale this spacious, well presented detached bungalow on a sizable plot located in Charlemont Crescent, West Bromwich. This property briefly offers; 2 bedrooms, a lounge, a kitchen/diner and a bathroom. This property also benefits from double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is highly recommended.
Energy Rating 40 (E).

WEST BROMWICH, Woodward Street £218,000

WortonKelly are delighted to offer for sale this well presented, 3 bedroom detached property located in West Bromwich. This property comprises of; 3 bedrooms, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, conservatory, garage and allocated parking to the front of the vicinity. This home also benefits from having double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is recommended to truly appreciate this property.
EPC-TBC.

WEST BROMWICH, New Swan Lane £500 PCM + Fees

WortonKelly are pleased to offer to let this mid terrace property located on New Swan Lane, West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Large Lounge dining room Modern Fitted Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, shower room, Rear Garden, Double Glazing and Central Heating. Available September 6 month - long term.
Energy Rating 50 (E).

WEDNESBURY, Wolverhampton Street£525 PCM + Fees

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer To Let this semi-detached property briefly comprising of one reception room, kitchen and shower room to the ground floor, three bedrooms and a bathroom to the first floor, also benefiting from double glazing, central heating, front and rear gardens.
Energy Rating 69 (C).

WEST BROMWICH, Canterbury Road £525 PCM + Fees

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer to let this well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached house briefly comprising of Lounge, fitted Kitchen, Ground floor Re fitted Shower room, central heating and double glazing where specified, Pleasant Rear Garden. Viewing Highly Recommended. Available immediately for 6 months - Long Term.
Energy Rating 71 (C).

WEST BROMWICH, Walsall Road £575 PCM + Fees

WortonKelly are pleased to offer to let this spacious, semi detached family home located on Walsall Road, West Bromwich. Offering Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility room, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Driveway, and Garage to front, Rear Garden area . Viewing is essential to appreciate this property.
Energy Rating 71 (C).

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WINSON GREEN

NOW £96,000

Willes Road, B18

- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Double glazed
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Investment opportunity

EDGBASTON

NOW £79,950

Barleycorn Drive, B16

- Two bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Double glazed
- Allocated parking
- No upward chain

OLDBURY

NOW £334,995

Westmead Drive, B68

- Six bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Spacious kitchen
- Two family bathrooms
- Driveway & Garage

EDGBASTON

NOW £114,995

Ridgeway, B17

- Two bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Double glazed
- Fitted kitchen
- Maintained gardens

SMETHWICK

NOW £107,950

Rosefield Road, B67

- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Neutrally decorated
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Ideal family home

SMETHWICK

NOW £99,995

Sabell Road, B67

- Two bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Double glazed
- Fitted kitchen
- Investment opportunity

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OLDBURY

NOW £89,995

Farm Road, B68

- Four bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Double glazed
- Modern fitted kitchen
- New bathroom suite

SMETHWICK

NOW £89,000

Oxford Road, B66

- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Double glazed
- Ideal for FTB
- Investment opportunity

SALE

SMETHWICK

NOW £330,000

Queens Road, B67

- Six bedrooms
- Two family bathrooms
- Double glazed
- Spacious driveway
- New build

SALE

SMETHWICK

NOW £95,000

Edith Road, B66

- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Fitted kitchen
- Close to public transport
- Investment opportunity

SALE

SMETHWICK

NOW £93,000

Dibble Road, B67

- Two bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Double glazed
- Fitted kitchen
- Ideal FTB

SALE

TIVIDALE

NOW £85,000

Dudley Road East, B69

- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Double glazed
- Modern fitted kitchen
- New bathroom suite

SALE

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52 HILLTOP ROAD, OLDBURY

- Extended semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Superbly presented fully tiled bathroom
- Fully boarded Loft
- Hall, lounge and kitchen/dining room
- Extended rear sitting room
- Downstairs fully tiled shower room
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Detached garage at rear
- Refurbished to a high standard
- Internal inspection to be appreciated

OFFERS BASED ON £185,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

122 HARBORNE ROAD, WARLEY

- Directly overlooking Warley Woods
- Substantial detached property
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually double glazed throughout
- FIVE bedrooms, master bedroom having en-suite shower and walk-in wardrobe
- Family bathroom with Jacuzzi bath
- Lounge and dining room
- Conservatory
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Side garage and off-street parking

OFFERS BASED ON 440,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

AUCTION

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Our February 2014 auction produced an 85% success rate maintaining the excellent results we have achieved since our first collective auction sale in 1976, well above the national average and that of our competitors in Birmingham and the West Midlands.

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602 BEARWOOD ROAD BEARWOOD WEST MIDLANDS B66 4BW FAX: 0121 434 4768

230 NORMAN ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Freehold semi-detached corner property
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom
- Spacious lounge and kitchen/breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Off-street parking for two cars
- Ideal FTBs or as a family home

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

70 CHESTNUT ROAD, OLDBURY

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom with Mira shower & Separate W.C.
- Through lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen
- Nicely presented garden to the rear
- Off-street parking for three/four cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £169,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

KATHERINE ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented and expensively appointed traditional freehold semi-detached style residence
- Spacious extended accommodation
- Three bedrooms and refitted bathroom
- Hall & superb through lounge/dining room
- 19ft+ fully fitted kitchen
- Downstairs shower room/WC
- Double garage
- Delightful feature gardens
- INTERNAL INSPECTION ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL

Offers based on £174,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

NEW

255 BARCLAY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented traditional family residence
- Sympathetically improved
- Number of original features to include fireplaces
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- FOUR spacious bedrooms
- Through hall, lounge and separate dining room
- Superb fully refitted dining/kitchen
- Morning room
- Refitted fully tiled bathroom
- Delightful feature garden
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £259,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

338 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Prominent corner position
- Delightful gardens to front and rear
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled family bathroom
- Downstairs shower/wet room
- Two reception rooms
- Conservatory
- Off-street parking for two cars
- An ideal family home
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST

OFFERS BASED ON 164,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

267 WEST BOULEVARD, QUINTON

- Double glazed, centrally heated and alarmed
- FOUR bedrooms and washroom/WC to the first floor
- Hall, spacious inter-communicating lounge/dining room, extended kitchen and bathroom downstairs
- Gardens with off-street parking for 4/5 cars
- Easy reach Harborne village, Birmingham University and QE Hospital
- Some general upgrading required
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £155,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

ASHWOOD CLOSE, OLDBURY

- Second floor flat
- PVC double glazed
- Electric storage heating
- Double bedroom
- Spacious lounge
- Allocated parking
- Ideal for first time buyers

Offers based on £65 000

Viewing Bearwood Office

8 RATCLIFF WALK, OLDBURY

- Modern freehold town house
- PVC double glazed
- Duct-air central heating
- Two bedrooms (readily re-convertible to 3)
- Shower room
- Spacious lounge and conservatory
- Open plan kitchen/dining room
- Neatly laid out garden
- Allocated off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £89,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

73 PARGETER ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Recently refurbished freehold mid-terraced property
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Superbly appointed refitted bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

69 ST. MATTHEWS ROAD,

- Modern first floor maisonette
- Well heated and double glazed
- Attractively presented accommodation
- Two bedrooms & well fitted bathroom with shower
- Lounge and fitted kitchen
- Communal gardens and ample off-street parking
- Ideal first time buyers or investment purposes
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £69,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

242 DUDLEY ROAD, WINSON GREEN

- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Gas central heating
- Three bedrooms and storage room
- Family bathroom to the first floor
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen and utility
- Downstairs shower room
- An ideal family home
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON 129,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

3 REAR OF 31 EVA ROAD, WINSON

- Pedestrian walkway off Eva Road
- Easy access Birmingham city centre
- Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge and kitchen/ breakfast room
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £74,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

32 BRANDHALL COURT, OLDBURY

- Well presented ground floor flat
- PVC double glazed and well heated
- Gated development
- Superb through lounge/dining room
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen and bathroom
- Garage and communal gardens
- FULL INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

147 WINDMILL LANE, SMETHWICK

- Ground/first floor maisonette
- Secondary glazed and part PVC double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom and separate W.C.
- Allocated parking
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £79,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

FLAT 1, 310 GILLOTT ROAD,

- Ground floor self-contained flat
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms
- Communal gardens
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £69950

Viewing Bearwood Office

22 SHALDON WALK, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom with double shower compartment
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Through lounge/dining room
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE RECOMMENDED
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

21 CORBETT STREET, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Cellar
- Ideal for FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON

Viewing Bearwood Office

10 DALE STREET, BEARWOOD

- Freehold mid-terraced property
- Midway between Bearwood & Smethwick town centres
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Vestibule, hallway and cellar
- Two reception rooms
- Requiring cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON 104,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

4 DALE STREET, BEARWOOD

- Gas centrally heated
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, lounge, dining room and kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON 102,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

43 BEAKES ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Well presented mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with individual shower
- Through lounge/ dining room
- Kitchen & verandah/utility
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY

OFFERS BASED ON 124,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

18 TOWER ROAD, TIVIDALE

- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Lounge, spacious kitchen & conservatory
- Gardens with off-street parking
- Some general cosmetic improvement required
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £110,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

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- Detached Four Bedroom House
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- Detached Four Bedroom House
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- Janet and John Ensuite Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
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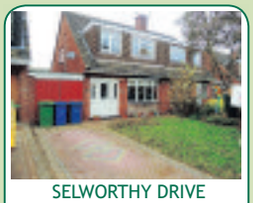
- Extended 3 Bed Detached House
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge, Diner, Study/Office
- Family Bathroom & En-suite Shower
- Garage, Drive & Gardens

£189,950



SELWORTHY DRIVE
STAFFORD

- Extended Semi
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-Styled Kitchen
- Garage
- Walton Catchment

OIRO £179,950

WODEN ROAD SOUTH
SOLD STC IN WEDNESBURY

- Extended Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge/ Diner
- Extended Kitchen
- Conservatory

SOLD STC

EDWIN PHILLIPS DRIVE
WEST BROMWICH

Three Bedroom Detached House Stunningly Well Presented Newly Fitted

Breakfast Kitchen Conservatory Drive And Detached Garage

£165,000

PEAKE DRIVE
TIPTON

- 3 BED Semi HOUSE
- call GOODCHILDS to VIEW
- End/Corner Plot
- Good SPACE Downstairs
- Drive & Gardens
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

£139,950

DARLASTON ROAD
WEDNESBURY

- NEW PRICE
- Newley Built 3 bed Semi Detched
- Family Bathroom & En-Suite
- DRIVE
- Double Glazing & Central Heating

REDUCED to £125,000

NEW

COLES LANE
WEST BROMWICH

EXTENDED Three Bedroom Semi Detached Ensuite Shower Room Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing Garage Priced To Sell And Must Be Viewed

£125,000

DURHAM ROAD
WEDNESBURY

- Extended Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom & Wetroom
- Large Drive

£124,995

NEW

HORSELEY HEATH
TIPTON

three bedroom semi detached house two reception rooms front and rear gardens parking & detached garage Viewings essential

£125,000

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TAME STREET
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- 2 Bed Modern Town House
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Private Parking
- Rear Garden
- Family Bathroom

£120,000

SYCAMORE ROAD
HANDSWORTH

- Mid Terraced House
- FOUR Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- In Need of Modernisation
- GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Offers invited

UPPER CHURCH LANE
TIPTON

- 3 Bed Semi Detached House
- EXTENSIVE Drive & Garden
- Lounge/Diner
- Garage
- Downstairs WC

£119,950

REDUCED

HIGHFIELD ROAD
DUDLEY

- Semi Detached House
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating

Offers Invited

ST. HELENS AVENUE
TIPTON

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Garage & Drive

£119,000

ROWLAND HILL DRIVE
TIPTON

- Two Bedroom Town House
- Ideal For First Time Buyers and Investors
- Off Road Parking
- ●●NO CHAIN●●
- Call GOODCHILDS to VIEW

£110,000

JOHNSON CLOSE
WEDNESBURY

- End Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- DRIVE
- NO CHAIN

£109,950

VICARAGE ROAD
WEST BROMWICH

- 2 Good Bedrooms
- Modern Town House
- Private Rear Garden
- Secure Off Road Parking
- Conservatory

£95,000

HOLYHEAD ROAD
WEDNESBURY

Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment Very Well Presented Fully Fitted

Kitchen Central Heating & Double Glazing Viewing Essential

£88,500

WHITEHALL ROAD
WEST BROMWICH

Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat Very Well Presented Fully Fitted Kitchen

Newly Fitted Bathroom Ideal For Occupation Or Investment

£74,995

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- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen with Appliances
- Large Rear Garden
- No Pets
- SORRY NO DHSS

£600 pcm

Wednesbury
ALDER ROAD

- FOUR Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extensive Kitchen
- Large Driveway
- SORRY NO DHSS

£575 pcm

Wednesbury
GOLDBY DRIVE

- Three Bedrooms
- Guest W/C
- Master with En-Suite
- Garage
- SORRY NO DHSS

£550 pcm

Great Barr
CURBAR ROAD

- Three Bedrooms
- Semi-Detached
- Excellent Condition
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£530 pcm

West Bromwhich
HALL GREEN ROAD

- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Court Yard Garden
- Down Stairs WC
- SORRY NO DHSS

£525 pcm

Great Barr
HARLESTON ROAD

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- SORRY NO DHSS

£500 pcm

Tipton
ANDREW ROAD

- Three Bedroom House
- End Of Terrace
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 pcm

Wednesbury
FRANCHISE GARDENS

- Three Bedrooms Terraced House
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage
- Rear Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

£500 pcm

Wednesbury
JOHNSON CLOSE

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Large Garden
- Down Stairs Bathroom
- Recently Decorated
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 pcm

Wednesbury
TAME CROSSING

- Two Bedrooms
- Entrance Hallway
- Canal Views
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
WEDGBURY CLOSE

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking
- Secured
- Entrance
- First Floor
- SORRY NO DHSS

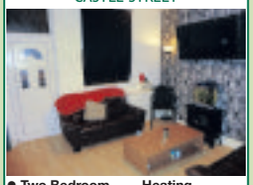
£475 pcm

Wednesbury
THE AVENUE

- Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Darlaston
CASTLE STREET



- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Utility Room
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£450 pcm

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- More Properties Available Within Block
- Two Bedrooms
- Underground Parking
- 50% OFF REFERENCING FEES
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£450 PCM

Wednesbury
ADDISON TERRACE

- Ground Floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

£ 425 pcm

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Our Lettings teams deal ONLY with lettings.
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TIPTON
DUDLEY PORT

- One Bedroom Flat
- Central Location
- Gas central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£375 pcm

Stone Cross
PRINCESS GROVE

- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor
- Separate Kitchen
- Quiet Location
- SORRY NO DHSS

£375 pcm

Tipton
DUDLEY PORT

- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor Flat
- Seperate Kitchen
- Lounge
- SORRY NO DHSS

£375 pcm

Wednesbury
TALBOT HOUSE

- One Bedroom Flat
- First Floor
- Wednesbury Town Centre
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- DHSS ACCEPTED

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Thinking of Selling?

Call today to arrange your free market appraisal

Connells

Bearwood 122 Poplar Rd Bearwood B66 4AP

Beaks Farm Gardens Edgbaston £199,950

A FAMILY HOME comprising: porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated where specified, front driveway, rear garden, garage. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. STAMP DUTY PAID FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY. EPC: D

Montague Road Smethwick £110,000

REDUCED

A well maintained two bedroom mid townhouse with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, twobedrooms, bathroom, parking to the front and garden. EPC:C

Abbey Road Smethwick £134,950

REDUCED

A well maintained Victorian mid terraced property. Having gas central heating and double glazing where specified, comprising: entrance vestibule, entrance hall, lounge, dining area, kitchen, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, gardens. EPC:D

Valentine Road Oldbury £114,950

REDUCED

An extended semi detached property with double glazed and gas central heating where specified and comprising of entrance porch, entrance vestibule, through lounge diner, kitchen, second reception room, shower room, three bedrooms, bathroom, outside parking to the front, garden to the rear. EPC: D

Bernard Road Edgbaston £190,000

NEW

A WELL PRESENTED AND WELL MAINTAINED traditional semi detached property situated in a desirable suburb of Edgbaston with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge dining room, kitchen, utility area, three bedrooms, bathroom, parking and gardens. EPC: E

Deerstalker Square Edgbaston £157,000

NEW

A WELL MAINTAINED three storey mid townhouse with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: hallway, kitchen, cloakroom with WC, lounge, to the first floor is two bedrooms and family bathroom and top floor is main bedroom and master en-suite. Outside: off-road parking. EPC: C

WANTED

Properties **URGENTLY** required.

Bearwood/Smethwick Area

Please contact our Sales Team to arrange a **FREE** market appraisal.

0121 420 3611

Addenbrook Road Smethwick £130,000

An end townhouse, ideally situated in a popular residential location, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified, the accommodation comprises: entrance lobby, lounge, kitchen/diner, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom, off-road parking and gardens. EPC: E

Princess Road Oldbury £142,500

A three bedroom semi detached property, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/breakfast, conservatory, cloakroom, bathroom, parking and garden. EPC: D

Willow Avenue Birmingham £250,000

A SPACIOUS Victorian semi detached property with many ORIGINAL FEATURES AND PLENTY OF CHARACTER. The property comprises of entrance hallway, 2 reception rooms, kitchen with dining area, five bedrooms with a generous double bedroom, bathroom and generous garden, off road parking to the front. NO CHAIN

City Road Edgbaston £229,000

A three storey semi detached Victorian villa having been recently refurbished with gas central heating and double glazing where specified, comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, third reception, kitchen, two bathrooms, five bedrooms, parking, garden. EPC: E

OPEN EVENING INVITATION

Thursday 13th March 2014

4.00pm - 6.00pm

We would like to invite you to our special open evening to view our 7 spectacular properties at this delightful development, Queens Court, Sorrey Lane, West Bromwich. Close to Sandwell Hospital and transport links.

The development consists of just 7 impeccably appointed properties comprising a Dormer Bungalow, 5 Townhouses and 1 three storey five Bedroom Detached House.

We look forward to seeing you on 13th March between 4.00pm - 6.00pm.

Queens Court, Sorrey Lane,
West Bromwich, B71 4EB

Prices start from £165,000

For further details call Connells on 0121 525 1177

Oldbury 70/76 Birmingham Street Birmingham B69 4EB

Brades Rise Tividale £199950

NEW

EPC Rating D - A VERY WELL PRESENTED and SPACIOUS four bedroomed DETACHED family home comprising of entrance porch, ground floor cloakroom, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, four first floor bedrooms, master with ensuite, family bathroom, driveway, garage, front and rear gardens. Double glazing and

St James Road Oldbury £199,950

NEW

EPC Rating C - A HIGHLY IMPRESSIVE and spacious four bedroomed DETACHED FAMILY HOME comprising of entrance hall, lounge, sitting room, extensive kitchen/diner, ground floor shower room, three bedrooms and bathroom in the original part of the house and in the extension there is the fourth bedroom which can be use as a

Farm Avenue Oldbury £170,000

NEW

EPC Rating E - A HIGHLY IMPRESSIVE and extensively extended three bedroomed semi detached property located in this sort after cul-de-sac location and comprises of entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen / diner, conservatory, ground floor w.c, three first floor DOUBLE bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway and front and rear

Kenelm Road Oldbury £135,000

NEW

EPC Rating E - A VERY WELL PRESENTED three bedroomed semi detached house comprising of entrance hall, through lounge / dining room, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, utility room, ground floor w.c, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden and driveway to front. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Hayes Road Oldbury £135,000

NEW

EPC Rating D - A SPACIOUS and VERY WELL PRESENTED three bedroom semi detached family home comprising of entrance porch, entrance hall, ground floor cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●NO UPWARD CHAIN●

Embassy Road Oldbury £115,000

NEW

EPC Rating Awaited - A very well presented MODERN two bedroomed terraced house comprising of entrance hall, cloakroom, fitted kitchen, lounge, two first floor bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway, front and rear gardens. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

St Pauls Road Smethwick £120,000

NEW

EPC Rating E - A three bedroomed semi detached family home comprising of entrance hall, lounge / diner, kitchen, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and front driveway. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●NO UPWARD CHAIN●

Ashes Road Oldbury £109,950

NEW

EPC Rating E - VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to appreciate this two bedroomed VICTORIAN STYLE end town house briefly comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, foregarden, side entrance and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. POTENTIAL BUY TO LET OR INVEST-

Temple Way Tividale £109,950

NEW

EPC Rating E - A well presented and recently redecorated two bedroomed semi detached home comprising of entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, driveway to front of property and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●NO UPWARD CHAIN●

Century Road Oldbury £119,950

REDUCED

EPC RATING G - A three bedroomed DETACHED home with NO UPWARD CHAIN comprising of through lounge, kitchen, conservatory, first floor bathroom, shower room off second bedroom, enclosed rear garden and driveway. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●VIEWING IS HIGH RCOMMENDED TO APPRECI-

7 / 10 NEW INSTRUCTIONS SOLD THIS MONTH!!!

Call Connells Oldbury **NOW** to sell yours!

0121 552 2671

Wednesbury 22 Springhead Wednesbury WS10 9AD

Manifold Way Wednesbury £49,950

NEW

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN A modern style one bedroom ground floor apartment briefly comprising of, secure intercom entry system, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) entrance hall, open plan lounge with fitted kitchen area, fitted bathroom, allocated parking space.

Station Street Wednesbury £110,000

NEW

INTERNAL VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate this beautifully presented traditional style two bedroom mid-terrace property offering spacious accommodation benefiting from two reception rooms, extended fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom.

Hempole Lane Tipton £124,950

NEW

Benefiting from no upward chain a modern style three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) entrance hall, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden,off road parking & garage.

Collins Road Wednesbury £129,950

NEW

A well presented three bedroom semi-detached briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, first floor bathroom, off road parking, enclosed rear garden, garage.

Hydes Road Wednesbury £135,000

Conveniently situated near to the town centre, VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED on this well presented traditional three bedroom mid-terrace property with accommodation over three floors.The property briefly comprises of through lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, front and rear gardens.Energy Rating E.

Farmer Way Tipton £135,000

REDUCED

Early inspection advised to appreciate this three bedroom semi-detached property on the Burberry Grange Estate benefiting from no upward chain briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge with dining area, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garage and drive-way.

Teal Grove Wednesbury £150,000

NEW

VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED on this well presented three bedroom modern style detached property in a cul-de-sac location briefly comprising of, double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive-way providing off road parking.

Stour Street West Bromwich £85,000

A 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of double glazing and central heating (where specified), lounge, kitchen,conservatory, downstairs bathroom,rear garden EPC RATING D

Old College Drive Wednesbury £64,950

REDUCED

Benefiting from no upward chain a modern style second floor apartment briefly comprising of, secure intercom entry system, reception hallway, open plan lounge with fitted kitchen area, fitted bathroom, two bedrooms, allocated parking space. Energy Rating C.

Old College Drive Wednesbury £64,950

REDUCED

Benefiting from no upward chain a modern style second floor apartment briefly comprising of, secure intercom entry system, entrance hall, open plan lounge with fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, two bedrooms, allocated parking space. Energy Rating C.

Corporation Street Wednesbury £129,950

An extended four bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) through lounge, breakfast kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive-way providing off road parking and garage. Energy Rating D.

Manifold Way OIEO Wednesbury £69,950

Benefiting from no upward chain a modern style two bedroom ground floor apartment briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, allocated parking space. Energy Rating C.

Devereux Road West Bromwich £155,000

NEW

Extended 3 bedroom semi detached property, located within close proximity of West Bromwich town centre, offering access to transport links,having 2 reception rooms, utility room,kitchen,downstairs cloakroom,central heating,double glazing,off road parking and garage EPC RATING D

West Bromwich 3 Astle Park West Bromwich B70 8NS

Monkgate Drive West Bromwich £125,000

NEW

A beautifully presented modern 3 bedroom mid terrace property,briefly comprising of spacious lounge,guest cloakroom, kitchen/diner, family bathroom,two allocated parking spaces, double glazing,central heating. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING C

Hanbury Road West Bromwich £47,500

NEW

A 2 bedroom ground floor maisonette,having lounge,kitchen,double glazing, NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING D

Poultney Street West Bromwich £70,000

REDUCED

A 2 bedroom mid-terraced property having Double glazing and central heating where specified, open plan lounge/kitchen, first floor bathroom, rear garden and ●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● EPC RATING D

The Broadway West Bromwich £129,995

NEW

A beautifully presented 3 bedroom semi detached property. Located in a quiet cul de sac.,having double glazing and central heating (where specified), lounge and dining area, extended refurbished kitchen,family bathroom,garage, off road parking.EPC RATING TBC

Griffiths Road West Bromwich £127,000

NEW

Connells are pleased to present this extended 3 bedroom mid terrace property,having double glazing,central heating (where specified),lounge preplan ,kitchen/ dining room,off road parking EPC RATING E

Bromford Lane West Bromwich £205,000

NEW

A beautifully presented modern 4 bedroom town house located within close proximity to West Bromwich Town Centre and offering great access to public transport and leisure centre,having 2 reception rooms,master bedroom having ensuite,downstairs cloakroom,upstairs bathroom,garage, EPC RATING B

Harrington Croft West Bromwich £275,000

NEW

A beautifully presented 4 bedroom detached property located in a sort after area,having 2 reception rooms,downstairs cloakroom,kitchen/diner,utility room,family bathroom,ensuite to master, double glazing, central heating (where specified), garage,off road parking, large rear garden EPC RATING C

Horseley Road Tipton £129,950

A 2 bedroom detached bungalow,briefly comprising of lounge,fitted kitchen,-double glazing,central heating,off road parking, rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING D

Trotters Lane West Bromwich £125,000

REDUCED

A traditional 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of central heating, double glazing, through lounge,extended kitchen,conservatory, upstairs family bathroom, off road parking NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING D

0121 420 3611 bearwood@connells.co.uk | 0121 552 2671 oldbury@connells.co.uk
0121 556 2338 wednesbury@connells.co.uk | 0121 525 1177 westbromwich@connells.co.uk

The Property Ombudsman

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0121 505 1818
Bilston
01902 353578
Sedgley
01902 686868

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Tipton
Anita Avenue
- Two bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Private Gardens
- Energy Rating - C

£550pcm

Tipton
Potters Brook
- First floor purpose built apartment
- Two bedrooms
- DG and GCH
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - B

£475pcm

Tipton
Middle Meadow
- Two bed apartment
- Fitted kitchen incl oven and hob
- GCH & DG
- Energy Rating - C
- Allocated parking

£450pcm

Tipton
Ferguson Drive
- One bed apartment
- Unfurnished
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with bath/ shower facilities
- Energy Rating - TBC

£375pcm

Bilston
Ettingshall Road
- Traditional three bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Luxury shower room
- Detached garage facility
- Pets and smokers considered
- Energy Rating - D

£595pcm

Wednesbury
Crankhall Lane
- Three bed semi
- GCH and DG
- Breakfast kitchen
- Cloakroom with WC
- Veranda/sun room
- Energy Rating - C

£550pcm

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Brierley Hill
Columbus Avenue
- Two bed apartment
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- ORP
- Located opposite Westfield Shopping Centre
- Energy Rating - C

£525pcm

Bilston
Horace Street
- Two bed mid terraced home
- CH & DG
- Bathroom with bath/ shower
- Energy Rating - C

£495pcm

Brierley Hill
Commonside
- Two bed detached home
- Central heated accommodation
- Bathroom with shower
- Garden
- Available immediately
- Energy Rating - F

£450pcm

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OUR APPLICATION FEES ARE ONLY
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Address	Saturday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March	Wednesday 12th, 19th, 26th March
40 Handley Street, Wednesbury	9.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m.
42 Handley Street, Wednesbury	9.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m.
103 Woden Road, Wednesfield	10.15 a.m.	10.15 a.m.
Bank House, Mill Street, Cannock	11.15 a.m.	11.15 a.m.
54 New Penkridge Road, Cannock	12.00 Noon	12.00 Noon
90A Cannock Road, Blackfords	12.45 p.m.	12.45 p.m.
221 Littleworth Road, Hednesford	1.15 p.m.	1.15 p.m.
46 Bow Street, Rugeley	2.00 p.m.	2.00 p.m.
Land adj. 49 Bentons Lane, Great Wyrley	By calling on site with a catalogue to hand.	

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AUCTION

LOT 1 GUIDE PRICE £80,000

103 WODEN AVENUE, WOLVERHAMPTON
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Three bedroomed semi detached house
- In popular residential area
- Benefiting from gas fired central heating
- Requiring some general repair and improvement

LOT 2 GUIDE PRICE £90,000-£100,000

221 LITTLEWORTH ROAD, HEDNESFORD
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Substantial detached house
- Standing on a good sized plot ideal for owner occupation, conversion or redevelopment (subject to planning permission)
- EPC rating 31

LOT 3 GUIDE PRICE £45,000-£50,000

42 HANDLEY STREET, WEDNESBURY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- End terraced house
- Two bedrooms
- In need of comprehensive renovation
- EPC rating 16

LOT 4 GUIDE PRICE £50,000-£55,000

40 HANDLEY STREET, WEDNESBURY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Mid terraced house
- Two bedrooms
- In need of comprehensive renovation
- EPC rating 12

LOT 5 GUIDE PRICE £180,000-£220,000

BANK HOUSE, MILL STREET, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Prominently located town centres offices
- 327 Sq. M. or thereabouts
- 12 car parking spaces
- Grade II listed building
- Gas central heating
- Part double glazed
- EPC rating D/100

CATALOGUE NOW AVAILABLE

LOT 6 GUIDE PRICE £200,000-£250,000

90A CANNOCK ROAD, BLACKFORDS, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT
- Currently producing £13,920 per annum
- Capable of producing £18,600 per annum
- Substantial detached property arranged as 4 one bedroomed flats
- Good sized site providing off road parking
- Electric heating
- Fully double glazed

LOT 7 GUIDE PRICE £200,000-£250,000

45 BOW STREET, RUGELEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Listed building offering extensive accommodation on three floors having been more recently used as licensed premises with ancillary and living accommodation on upper floors and courtyard
- Possible development opportunity

LOT 8 GUIDE PRICE £65,000-£75,000

LAND ADJOINING 49 BENTONS LANE, GREAT WYRLEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Individual residential building plot with benefit of full planning permission for erection of single residential dwelling.

LOT 9 GUIDE PRICE £175,000-£200,000

54 NEW PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Detached house of character
- Three bedrooms
- Gas fired central heating (not tested)
- Predominantly double glazed
- In need of improvement/refurbishment
- Located in much sought after residential area of the town

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Plot 3 Site of 46 George Road
*Link detached bungalow *Two bedrooms *L Shaped lounge/dining area
*Quality fitted kitchen with appliances *Luxury bathroom with shower cubicle
*Gas boiler heating radiators *Two parking spaces *EPC = C
£185,000

Smethwick TO LET

53 Wattis Road
* Lovely 2 bedroom terraced house
* Both bedrooms are double
* Great location for commuting into City
* Two reception rooms
* Kitchen with new cooker
* Bathroom with shower
* GCH & DGW * Garden * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £550+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Cradley Heath TO LET

(Haden Hill Area)
5 Chartwell Grange
441 Halesowen Road
* One bedroom self contained flat
* Living room & Kitchen * Bathroom with shower * Car space with communal grounds* Available from 10th March.
* EPC=F
Monthly rent of £365+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Oldbury

Broadway Croft
* Extended Semi Detached
* Through Lounge & Dining Room
* Conservatory
* Kitchen, Utility and WC
* Well appointed bathroom & En-suite
* Side Garage EPC=D
£199,950

Oldbury

Tame Road
* Terraced house
* Two reception rooms
* Kitchen/breakfast room
* Three bedrooms
EPC = C
Offers in the region of £109,950

Halesowen

Victoria Court
Binswood Road
* Spacious first floor flat
* Two bedrooms
* shower room
* Lounge with balcony
* Kitchen
* Communal gardens
* Communal off road parking
* Vacant possession available
EPC =C
Offers in the region of £79,950

Oldbury

Elm Croft
* Semi detached house
* Lounge
* Dining Room
* Three Bedrooms
* Small Garage/Store
EPC = D
Offers in the region of £154,950

Oldbury

Arden Grove
* Mid terraced house
* Tastefully presented and ideal for first time purchaser * Through living room forming lounge & dining area
* Fitted kitchen/breakfast room
* First floor double bedrooms & bathroom with shower
* Attic room * Enclosed garden
* Gas boiler heating radiators * Double glazed windows EPC=D
Offers in the region of £99,950

Halesowen TO LET

101 Olive Lane
* Semi detached house
* Two Bedrooms
* Good sized living room
* Kitchen with oven, hob, hood and fridge
* Gas boiler/radiator heating system
* Off road parking * Convenient location
* Available 1st March 2014 * EPC = D
Monthly rent of £535+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit

Quinton TO LET

29 Woodhouse Road
* End-terraced house
* Three bedrooms
* Kitchen with some appliances
* Lounge & conservatory
* GCH, DGW & rear garden
* Available from 24th February
* EPC=E
Monthly rent of £595+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Halesowen

Gower Road
* Spacious extended semi detached house
* 3 good sized bedrooms
* 2 reception rooms and kitchen/ breakfast room
* Sought after location
* In need of general modernisation
* No upward chain
EPC = E
Offers in the region of £249,950

Cradley Heath

Bramble Close
* End Terraced House
* Living Room* Conservatory
* Two Bedrooms
* Bathroom
* Situated on good sized plo
* Lovely rear garden
EPC = D
Offers in the region of £129,950

Dudley

Oakham Road
* Impressive detached extended house
* Hall, fitted cloakroom
* Lounge/sitting room, dining room/ conservatory * Fitted kitchen/dayroom, utility room *Principal bedroom with ensuite, 3 further bedrooms
* House bathroom, garaging for 3 cars, enclosed lovely gardens
* Inspection highly recommended
* EPC =E
Offers in the region of £425,000

Cradley Heath

Higgs Field Crescent
* Spacious detached bungalow
* Two bedrooms
* Guest cloakroom
* Conservatory
* Garage
EPC = D
Offers in the region of £199,950

Rowley Regis

Dovey Grove
* Three storey town house
* Three bedrooms (two with en-suites)
* Flexible accommodation
* Kitchen/dining room with balcony
* Integral garage
* EPC = C
Offers in the region of £174,950

Halesowen TO LET

16 Woodland Road
* Traditional 3 bed house
* 2 Living rooms* Bathroom with shower
* UPVC DG windows & GCH
* Popular location
* Convenient for nearby schools
* Available from 1/4/14
* EPC=E
Monthly rent of £650+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Halesowen TO LET

1 Woodbury Close
* Semi-detached house with side-garage * 3 bedrooms
* Large living/dining room
* Fitted kitchen with oven, hob and hood
* Bathroom with shower.
* Utility, GCH, DGW & pleasant garden
* Available 1st March 2014 * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £675+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

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Castle Road East, OLDBURY,

● Immaculate Semi Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Re-fitted Extended Kitchen
● Shower Room ● Three Bedrooms
● Family Bathroom ● Driveway ● Garage
Offers Around £249,950

Marshall Street, SMETHWICK,

● Extended Family Home
● Two Reception Rooms
● Extended Fitted Dining/Kitchen
● Three Bedrooms ● Upstairs Bathroom
● No Upward Chain
Offers Around £119,950

Sydney Road, SMETHWICK,

● Immaculate End Town House
● Reception Room ● Re-fitted Kitchen
● Two Double Bedrooms
● Re-fitted Upstairs Bathroom
● Viewing Highly Recommended
Offers Around £122,000

Southfield Avenue, EDGBASTON,

● End Terrace ● Cul-de-Sac Location
● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen ● Ground Floor Bathroom
● Three Bedrooms ● No Upward Chain
Offers Around £104,950

Naden Road, HOCKLEY,

● Investment Opportunity
● Two Bedroom Mid Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms
● Re-fitted Kitchen ● Re-fitted Bathroom
● Rental Income of £550pcm
Offers Around £75,000

Majuba Road, EDGBASTON,

● Mid Terraced Property
● Two Reception Rooms
● Kitchen ● Downstairs Bathroom
● Three Bedrooms
● Additional Bedroom in the Loft (with WC)
Offers Around £110,000

Brook Way, EDGBASTON,

● Superb Detached Property
● Through Lounge ● Breakfast Kitchen
● Conservatory ● Cloakroom
● Five Bedrooms ● Two En-suites
● Garage
Offers Around £265,000

Thimblemill Road, SMETHWICK,

● Commercial Property plus self contained flat
● Shop Front
● Three Bedrooms ● Fitted Kitchen
● Cloakroom
● Ideal Investment Opportunity
Offers Around £169,950

Cemetery Road, SMETHWICK,

● Two Bedroom Terrace
● Fitted Kitchen ● Upstairs Bathroom
● Two Reception Rooms
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Big Cat gets a sleeker look

By Andy Enright

Some cars dress up very nicely. The Jaguar XF executive model is one of them. Choose it in supercharged XFR or XFR-S performance guises and it's every bit the BMW M5 rival.

Where Jaguar has historically missed a trick is offering that same look with its more affordable diesel engines and more realistically priced trim levels as, say, BMW does with its M Sport trim on the 5 Series. But the Solihull brand has now caught up. Hence the availability of the R-Sport trim we're looking at here on more dynamic-looking variants of the XF saloon and XF Sportbrake estate.

Order your XF as an R-Sport and you get the standard recipe embellished with much of the look whichcharacterises the range-topping XFR super saloon model. There's a choice of saloon or estate bodystyles and you can select between all three of the main diesel engines in the XF lineup. That means the familiar 2.2-litre powerplant in 163 or 200PS guises, plus the 240PS 3.0-litre diesel V6.

Yes, the R-Sport package merely represents a trim level: there are no mechanical changes over the standard XF. But that doesn't necessarily mean this car is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

If you really want some strong pulling power in your XF R-Sport, there's the option of the 3.0-litre V6 diesel with 240PS. For most, however, there's more relevance in the performance of that 2.2-litre diesel. The entry-level 163PS XF will stop the watch at 9.8 seconds.

But the 200PS version, which is actually just as clean and economical, manages it in a far more sprightly 8.5 seconds, on the way to a 142mph maximum. With 450Nm of torque available from only 2,000rpm, there's no shortage of muscle with this engine, and the XF eight-speed auto transmission means you're always plugged into the meat of it.

Across the XF range, advances have been made in refinement, with active engine mounts (diesels) and sound deadening material featuring on the car as well as redesigned wing mirrors to reduce wind noise.

Since its main facelift back in Spring 2011, the XF has had a much sleeker look, something that's also a feature of the sleek Sportbrake estate. That model has a 1675-litre total loading capacity and there are nearly 100 different ways to configure the interior.

Inside, it's still a special experience. The auto gear selector rises into the palm of your hand on start-up as the dashboard airvents acrobatically turn into position to greet you as you fire the ignition.

If your only experience of XF motoring is of the original version, then in this current model, you'll appreciate the more supportive seats, the smarter satin-feel switches and the classier graphics on the 7-inch touch screen which looks after most of the main dashboard functions.

Relax inside an XF and from the stitched leather dashboard and door cappings to the aluminium and wood furnishings, it really does feel special. The craftsmanship, materials and attention to detail all impress.

Jaguar's designers have sought to find more interesting ways to say 'luxury', and largely, their efforts have worked. The lines are clean and pure, the materials are familiar, but with a very modern flavour – from soft-grained leathers to real wood veneers with a bold, contemporary spin. Even the phosphor-blue interior lighting has its own mood.

No apologies for concentrating on that 2.2-litre diesel engine again. In 163PS form, it's available in the latest ECO2 spec which, amongst other things, uses an engine stop/start system to deliver a 57.7mpg combined cycle fuel figure along with 129g/km of CO2.

If you've set your heart on a Jaguar XF, then you'll not be unaware of the driveway statement your purchase will make. In which case, you're likely to be very tempted by R-Sport spec, even at a £3,000 premium over the standard model.

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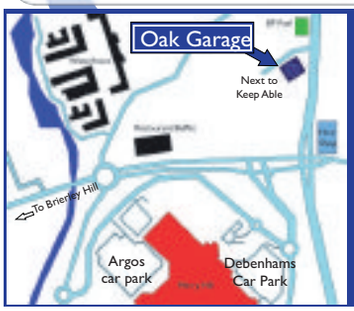

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Externally, the Scirocco's stylish shape has been refined and modernised with new headlights and tail lights, as well as revised bumper styling.

The revised front bumper features aerodynamic 'blades' in the outer section, like those of the latest-generation Golf GTI, with integrated indicator lights, daytime running lights and fog lights. On models fitted with the optional bi-xenon headlights, the daytime running lights are LEDs within the main headlights. At the rear, all Scirocos now have LED tail lights, while the bumper has been reshaped to appear lower and more purposeful. As on a Golf, the Volkswagen logo badge now has an additional purpose: functioning as the tailgate release handle.

As before, the range-topping Scirocco R has a distinct look, with bespoke bumpers and alloy wheels. The Scirocco R now comes as standard with 18-inch 'Cadiz' alloy wheels, as on the Golf R. The rest of the range also receives new alloy wheel designs, including the option of the 'Talladega' alloy previously reserved for the 'R'.

Under the bonnet (which as before features the Volkswagen roundel) are six new tubocharged direct-injection petrol and diesel engines, all of which meet EU6 emissions standards and return between 68.9 and 34.9 mpg.

Inside, the dashboard has been updated, with new-look dials and an auxiliary instrument cluster above the centre console, consisting of chronometer, charge pressure and oil temperature gauges – a tribute to the 1974 model.

Orders open in the UK in May, with first deliveries in September. More details available closer to launch.

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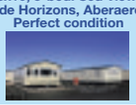

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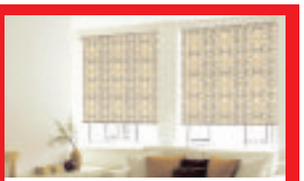

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4 Pets & Animals

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guns & dogs

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Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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HAND REARED Sunbrella Cockatoo with large cage, 2 years old, just started talking, £550. 07903 846046. 01902 409872

KING CHARLES cavalier, bitch, 7½ months old, innoculated, spayed, K.C reg., £450. 01543 877371.

PET GROOMING service. All animals welcome, great rates, quality service .10% off in March. Rich 01902 686061/07445 434053.

SPRINGER Cross Puppies, full of fun, eager to learn, ready now for loving Families. 07821 264013.

THREE YEAR OLD parrot for sale, not yet talking, £350 with cage. 01543 673439 / 07587 704643.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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6 Property

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BEDSIT, Hednesford area, single person only. Telephone 07969 129134.

BEECHADLE WALSALL WS2 7JH, 3-bed house CH, DG, front and back gardens. 07473 169281

DARLASTON 3 bed detached house, C/H, parking space, no DSS. £500 pcm. 07833 617007.

DSSMOVE.CO.UK the property website where properties say YES to DSS tenants.

REFURBED 2 bed terrace, Bridgtown. £495 pcm. No agents. No DSS. No pets. 07980 145050.

THREE BED FLATS, Tipton. DSS considered. 07961 301577 or 07906 878175.

TWO BEDROOM Semi-detached Bungalow with CH and DG, new curtains and carpets throughout. Burntwood area. £600pcm. 01543 673068 or 07879 021110.

W.BROM 3-bed Semi. 2 receps d/s toilet-utility. DHS considered. Good location. £550pcm. 07758 816458.

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properties wanted

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7 Jobs

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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07791 593950.

FIAT GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, 12 months MoT, tax, 30,000 miles, very good condition, £2,500 o.n.o. 01922 417357 or 07975 860902.

FORD MONDEO
07, 1800, 5dr hatchback, silver, 71,096 miles, 10 months MoT, 5 months tax, petrol, alloys, 1 owner, excellent condition.
£2,350 ono.
01922 628595.

HONDA JAZZ, 2009, 5,500 miles, red, 1200cc, 5 door, £4,995. 01902 723319.

MERCEDES E220 CDI, 2007, Avantgarde, genuine 15,000 miles, blue, fsh, black leather, MoT, tax, £9,995. 07768 106279.

MINI ONE CHILLI
2002, 54,500 miles, black, great condition inside and out, part s/h, long MoT (December), tax June, half leather interior.
£3,150 ono.
07738 238392.

NISSAN NOTE 1.4 VISIA. 09, 32,000 miles. As new, 6 months tax, full MoT. £4,550. o.n.o. 01785 663779.

PEUGEOT 206 2.0HDI/XSI
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07761 926635.

PEUGEOT 307 SW 7 seater, panoramic sunroof, 115,000 miles, diesel, 02 plate, £1,695 ono. Please call 07894 719305.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 05, 3Dr, 47,000 miles, silver, 12 months MoT, taxed, lady owner, £2,200. 07887 552299.

SEAT IBIZA 1.4
2005, 55 reg, 83,000 miles, petrol, hatchback, 3 door, black, abs, electric windows, air con, fsh, MoT, tax, alarm, central locking, 16ins alloys.
£1,695 ono.
01384 823788.

TOYOTA AYGO PLUS, 2009, genuine 6k miles, red, long MoT, tax, 5 door, 1 lady driver/owner, fsh, £5,750. 07768 106279.

TOYOTA RAV 4 3dr, 2003, petrol, silver, MoT May 2014, excellent condition, illness forces sale, £2,700 ono. 01543 278587.

VAUXHALL CORSA 14SE, 5dr, 2012, 13,000 mileage. Very good condition, on trades. Sale due to ill health, £6,850 ono. 0121 5203166.

VW POLO SELECT, 1.4, 85ps, 2011 reg, 12,200 miles, reflect silver, lady driver, excellent condition inside/out, VW service history, MoT 2015, tax September 2014,
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01902 605019

cars under £1500

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CITROEN XSARA 1.4, 2001, 8 months Tax and MoT, very tidy. £425.
07851 107267.

FORD FIESTA 1.2, T reg, SORN, no MoT, excellent condition, genuine reason for sale, 48k, £600 ono. Telephone 07527 724284.

FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6
2002, silver, 5 door hatchback, 50,000 miles from new, immaculate interior, 9 months MoT, 9 months tax, excellent runner. Must be seen.
£1,495 ono. 07808 470751.

FORD KA LUX 51 reg, long Mot, 6mths tax, panther black, cream leather, alloys, cd. Top of the range KA, £800. 07539 283704.

HYUNDAI COUPE 1.8, automatic, 1999, 36,000 miles, silver, tax and MoT. £625 ono. 07969 280226.

MAZDA MX5 convertible, 1.8, MoT, tax, low mileage, good condition, £1,400 ono. 07449 873847.

MERCEDES A140 CLASSIC
5dr saloon, semi auto, 2002, black, fitted DVD player, very good condition, MoT, no tax.
£850 ono.
07841 993370.

RENAULT CLIO 3dr hatch, petrol, 2004, 76k, FSH, good condition, £1,400 ono. 07449 873847.

RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 1200cc
2002, 3dr hatch, Tax till June, MoT May 30, CD, ABS, s/s exhaust, E/W, C/L, A/C, Alloys. Ideal first car. Good runner.
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VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 Very nice condition, 2001, long MoT and tax, power steering, elec windows. Very cheap to run, £650. 07570 466779.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2000 X reg, 5dr, 1.2, 16v, electrics, 6mth MoT. Good condition, £425 ono. 07804 177755 or 07925 872525.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN CHAMP VAN Diesel, white, 2004, 7 months MoT and tax, 91,000 miles boarded interior. £950 ono. 07707 350840.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LICENSING ACT 2003
I LISA JANE GOLDING of PHEONIX MARTLEY ROAD OLDBURY B69 1DY Herby give notice I have applied under S17 Licensing and in accordance with S12 Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence for the above mentioned premises, namely
For the Sale and Supply of Alcohol
MON - SUN 08:00 - 02:00
Regulated Entertainment, namely Plays, Films, Indoor Sporting Events, Boxing or Wrestling, Live Music, Recorded Music, Performances of dance, Anything of a similar description
MON - SUN 08:00 - 02:00
For Late Night Refreshment
MON - SUN 23:00 - 02:00
Any person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to Trading Standards and Licensing, Homes and Communities Directorate, Sandwell Council House, Po Box 2372, Oldbury B69 3BS. Telephone 0121 569 6537, email: licensingteam@sandwell.gov.uk not later than 25th MARCH 2014. A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours.
It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.
It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.
PMB LICENSING
(Authorised Agents)
Dated 25TH FEB 2014

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Beaconview Road, Wychnor Grove, Hampshire Road and Chester Road, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closures) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in order to facilitate work to the overhead electricity cables by the Electricity Alliance, the Borough Council of Sandwell in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in the following roads in West Bromwich:
   - **Beaconview Road** – From its junction with Navigation Lane to its junction with Millersdale Drive.
   - **Wychnor Grove** – in its entirety.
   - **Hampshire Road** – from its junction with Surrey Crescent to its junction with Chester Road.
   - **Chester Road** – from its junction with Surrey Crescent to its junction with Pembroke Road.
2. The alternative routes for vehicles will be via:
   - **Beaconview Road** - Beaconview Road, Charlemont Road, Walsall Road and vice- versa.
   - **Wychnor Grove** – no diversion route signed (cul-de-sac).
   - **Hampshire Road** – Chester Road, Hampshire Road and vice-versa.
   - **Chester Road** – Pembroke Road, Chester Road and vice-versa.
3. The Order will take effect on 10th March 2014, it is expected that the road closures will be phased as follows:
   - **Beaconview Road** – 10th March - 1st August 2014.
   - **Wychnor Grove** – 20th - 27th March 2014.
   - **Hampshire Road** – 21st - 23rd July 2014.
   - **Chester Road** – 23rd July - 4th August 2014.

   The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the work should be directed to James Norcross of the Electricity Alliance who can be contacted on 07900 240106 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

DATED this 6th day of March 2014
N SHARMA, Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Off-Street Parking Places Order No.20) 2014

The Borough Council of Sandwell in exercise of its powers under Sections 32 and 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and the Road Traffic (Permitted Parking Area and Special Parking Area) (Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell) Order 2000, has made an Order which will have the effect of:-

1. To introduce a car park located at West Bromwich Leisure Centre, Barton Street, West Bromwich. Charges will apply between the hours 6.30am - 10pm Monday - Friday, 8.30am - 8pm Saturday and Sunday, 8am - 6pm public holidays (inclusive), maximum stay of waiting – 3 hours.

   Scale of charges
   Up to 1 hour £0.80p
   Up to 2 hours £1.60p
   Up to 3 hours £2.40p
2. To introduce a car park located at West Bromwich Town Hall, Lodge Road, West Bromwich. Permit holders only at any time.
3. To delete the car parks:-
   Tesco Development Area 1, West Bromwich.
   Tesco Development Area 2, West Bromwich.
   Tesco Development Area 3, West Bromwich.
   Tesco Development Area 4, West Bromwich.
   Tesco Development Area 5, West Bromwich.
   Tesco Development Area 6, West Bromwich.

A copy of the Order, the Order to be revoked, a Statement of Reasons for making the Order and maps showing the location of all the car parks affected by the provisions in the Order may be examined at the offices of the Area Director of Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE during normal office hours.

The Order was made on 4th March 2014, and shall come into operation on 9th March 2014.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of its provisions on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or that any requirement of the Act or regulation made thereunder has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from 6th March 2014, apply to the High Court for that purpose.

Dated this 6th day of March 2014
S HANDLEY, Area Director Street Scene
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 3DE.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Beeches Road Passage, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in order to allow for the installation of scaffolding to facilitate repairs to No.2 Hope Street, West Bromwich, the Borough Council of Sandwell in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, intends to make an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in Beeches Road Passage, West Bromwich, on that stretch of highway which is directly adjacent to No.2 Hope Street.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Hope Street, High Street and Thynne Street.
3. The Order will take effect on 14th March 2014, it is expected that the work will be completed by 23rd May 2014. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the work should be directed to Steve Hodgetts of G Purchase Construction Ltd who can be contacted on 07837 026231 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

DATED this 6th day of March 2014
N SHARMA, Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in order to facilitate repairs to a sewer by Amey (who are working on behalf of Severn Trent Water), the Borough Council of Sandwell, in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury from its junction with Foley Street to its junction with Crankhall Lane.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Foley Street, Wood Green Road, Rooth Street, Brunswick Park Road and vice-versa.
3. The Order will take effect on 10th March 2014, it is expected that the work will be completed and the road re-opened by 21st March 2014. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the work should be directed to Fern Squire of Amey who can be contacted on 01785 624150 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Foley Drive, Oldbury) (Temporary One-Way) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in order to facilitate work to a gas main by Balfour Beatty, (who are working on behalf of National Grid Gas), the Borough Council of Sandwell, in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in Foley Drive, Oldbury from its junction with Tame Road to its junction with Kingsway, other than in a westerly then northerly direction.
2. The alternative route for northbound vehicles will be Tame Road and Kingsway.
3. The Order will take effect on 17th March 2014, and it is anticipated that the one-way will remain operational until 11th April 2014, after which time it is expected that the work will be complete. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the work should be directed to James Thompson of Balfour Beatty who can be contacted on 07890 256508 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Adkins Lane, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in order to facilitate the installation of two new electricity ducts by Western Power Distribution, the Borough Council of Sandwell in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in Adkins Lane, Smethwick from its junction with Milcote Road to its junction with Lightwoods Road.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Milcote Road, St Marys Road, Lightwoods Road and vice-versa.
3. The Order will take effect on 16th March 2014, it is expected that the work will be completed that same day. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the work should be directed to Alan Moseley of Western Power Distribution who can be contacted on 07532 092991 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Downing Street, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in order to facilitate repairs to a sewer by Amey (who are working on behalf of Severn Trent Water), the Borough Council of Sandwell in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in Downing Street, Smethwick from its junction with Wattville Road to its junction with Rabone Lane.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Rabone Lane, Cornwall Road, Downing Street and vice-versa.
3. The Order will take effect on 16th March 2014, it is expected that the work will be completed that same day. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the work should be directed to Ben Hooley of Amey who can be contacted on 01785 624150 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

DATED this 6th day of March 2014
N SHARMA, Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Waterfall Lane, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Prohibition of Driving) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding into Waterfall Lane from the junction with Perry Park Road.
2. The alternative route for vehicles travelling northbound will be diverted via Perry Park Road, Highfield Road and Waterfall Lane.
3. The Order will take effect on 10th March 2014, and will be operational during the daytime (8am - 5pm only), it is anticipated that the works may commence on that day. The works are expected to be completed on 14th March 2014. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the works should be directed to Steve Wall of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council on 0845 359 7518 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

Dated this 6th day of March 2014
N SHARMA, Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

PUBLIC NOTICE
I Jenny Irene Tromans of 21 Griffiths Road, West Bromwich, B71 2EH intend to marry Darragh James Staunton of 21 Griffiths Road, West Bromwich, B71 2EH, at Villa Fondi, Sorrento, Italy on 02/08/2014. Any person knowing of any lawful impediment to the marriage should without delay notify : Certificate of No Impediment, Consular Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, room K4.9, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH.

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Rampant Benteke puts rival to the sword

Villa 4 Norwich 1

Football

WITH Christian Benteke rampant and a survival rival put to the sword, this felt like a rerun of Villa's 'Sunderland moment' for 2014.

This time it was Norwich City's fate to be in the path of the Belgium international when he finally tapped into the destructive, defence-demolishing power of last season and they were no better equipped to deal with it than Paolo Di Canio's team last season.

In the end, Villa and Benteke came up a little short on that spectacular 6-1 result. But the conclusion felt very similar with the home side vaulting well clear of any immediate relegation peril on the back of the inspired form of their talisman.

All season Villa fans have had to make do with fragments of the Benteke they so relished in his debut campaign, but Saturday's performance was straight out of last season's vintage.

Two goals in as many minutes transformed what had the capacity to be an uncomfortable afternoon for Paul Lambert's side, who had conceded a third-minute goal to none other than Wes Hoolahan, the Norwich playmaker Villa had tried but failed to recruit from Carrow Road during January.

Throughout that opening period, familiar signs of the imperfections of this Villa team drew groans of disapproval from the Holte and threatened to plunge the home side into renewed anxieties about their Premier League status.

But four goals in 16 minutes, the first of which was Benteke at his very best, turned the game on its head and all but banished, surely, whatever tensions had been growing at Villa Park.

Benteke's first goal was surely his best of the season and probably one of the best of his career to date.

Its creative launchpoint was nothing more than a long, angled chip into the Norwich area by Ron Vlaar In the next 15 minutes, carnage ruled in front of Ruddy. Indeed, Benteke was only 90 seconds longer giving Villa the lead, this time rag-dolling Yobo's partner Sebastien Bassong to reach and head home an Ashley Westwood corner. The third goal, in the 37th minute, was probably the team effort which gave Lambert most satisfaction as Villa broke from defence and at the conclusive moment opened up Norwich with a telling change-of-direction from Gabby Agbonlahor and calm finish by Leandro Bacuna.

Four minutes later a deliciously-weighted pass by Ryan Bertrand sent the energetic Fabian Delph down the left.

He zipped over a cross of such pace and positioning that Bassong could do nothing but convert it into his own net.

Suffering DK side is hit with a shutout

Dudley Kingswinford 0 Birmingham Solihull 36

Rugby

ONCE again the faultless and undying spirit of this Dudley team shone like a beacon on the bright sunny afternoon at Heathbrook.

Alas, it was all to no avail as DK's season of woe continued at the hands of a very workmanlike Bees' side who ran out comfortable winners in the end.

Dudley were immediately on the back foot as they lost flanker Matt Squires to the sin bin after only two minutes for allegedly killing the ball at a ruck.

Bees took advantage of the extra man and launched an attack in midfield with fly half Adam Canning making the decisive break and raced almost un-opposed to the posts to score the opening try which he converted to take Bees into a 7-0 lead after 10 minutes.

With Squires still off the pitch another strong attack by the visitors saw left wing Fensome go over for their second try which Canning just failed to convert. Back up to full strength, DK then launched attacks themselves but were unable to breach a solid defence and their only reward was a solitary penalty which fly half Kieran Pinches narrowly missed.

Further good work by the forwards saw them press the visitors line but despite their best efforts they just lacked that final cutting edge to get them over the try line.

However, the key difference between the two teams was that when the visitors got into the home 22, they pressed the advantage and were rewarded with a further two tries, one an interception by Adam Canning bagging his second of the match by running almost the full length of the pitch, and the other by scrum half Rod Petty just on half time, both converted by Canning.

With the wind advantage in the favour of the visitors the signs for the home side were ominous, but those odds do not phase DK and they opened the half strongly, and continued to press but still couldn't find a way through.

However, the now customary second half heroics were not rewarded by points, and despite Bees losing two players to the sin bin, DK could not find a way over the line to get the scores they so richly deserved.

No.8 Jon Tideswell forced his way over, but was adjudged not to have grounded the ball.

The visitors scored two further tries through Chris Goddard.

Wrestler Chinu shows his championship style

Chinu Singh, aged 26, from Oldbury who has recently won the English Championship title

A WRESTLER who trains at centre in Wolverhampton got a good grip on a trophy in a recent tournament held in the Midlands during which he never dropped a point.

Chinu Singh, aged 26, from Oldbury is an Olympic Freestyle Wrestler who trains at Wolverhampton Wrestling Club which is held at Guru Nanak Satsang Sikh Gurdwara, Sports Centre, Cannock Road, Park Village.

Singh is six times British Champion and International competitor for England and Great Britain at the 120kg super heavy weight category.

Last month he won 2014 English Championship at his weight in a championship held at at North Solihull Sports Centre, Solihull. In the finals he beat GB international Mark Cocker by scoring seven points against him and went the whole tournament without conceding a point.

Athletes take part in March Hair raiser

THIS week a couple of runners took part in the March Hair Raiser.

Organised by Wolves and Bilston Athletics Club, it is a 6.5 road race in Kingswood Near Albrighton.

Despite a cold start, Steven Burch finished in48.05 and Colin Downey finished in 52.08.

Last weekend was the English Nationals Cross Country races – held at Wollaton Park, Nottingham. First across the line was Chris Blake with a time of 47.19, next was Duncan Cornigh 48.58 and Pete Walters 50.27. Stourbridge was placed 96th in the Senior Men team 6 count.

Joan Clarke and Ruby Ooi took place in the ladies race and their times were 40.48 and 1.09.00 respectively.

Also last weekend was the Action Heart 5 race in Dudley. Stourbridge had 15 runners in the race, first to finish was Chris Blake 31.23 then Robert Colman 32:36 then David Rose 34.47.

The annual Stourbridge Stumble will be held on the evening of August 9th. For details see the clubs website www.srclub.co.uk

Benteke's best 'is still to come'

VILLA boss Paul Lambert today insisted Christian Benteke's best is yet to come as the striker targeted a late-season goal spree after shooting down Norwich.

The Belgium international netted twice in three first-half minutes as his side went 11th in the Premier League with a vital 4-1 victory over Norwich at Villa Park yesterday.

But Lambert says the 23-year-old is still improving after signalling a return to his best with a fine all-round display against the Canaries after a dip in form.

"As soon as he scored the first goal, his game was great," said Lambert. "He was controlling the ball when there were people trying to get to it and when he's at it he's an absolute handful, world class.

"I knew it was going to be hard (this season) because the lad has only been in Britain for a year-and-a-half. Benteke said: "I hope now I'm going to keep my level up."

Runners head far and wide for races

ATHLETES from DK Running club travelled far and wide to pull on the blue hooped vest.

Those travelling the shortest distance went to Albrighton for the March Hair Raiser Race, a six and a half-ish off road race advertised as "tough and testing". Ben Foster was first DK runner home coming fourth in 37.47, Brian Preston was 26th in 44.40, Helen Tromans, 34th overall but claiming the third lady prize, finished in 46.25, John Andrews was 52nd in 49.43 and Jacqui Elton-Whittaker was 80th in 53.59.

Roger Beddard put the final touches to his preparation for the Barcelona Marathon in a week's time with a race over the half distance in Bath. In a high quality field Beddard hit 1.37.39 for 1185th place. Travelling the furthest was a trio to Berkshire for the Mizuno sponsored Reading Half Marathon. In a race with near 15,000 finishers Dave Norman was the first DK runner to cross the line in 1.28.45 for 753rd place, Mark Homer finished in 1.34.11 for 1,359th and Phil Smith was 1,679th in 136.16.

Anelka in wait over judgment

ALBION striker Nicolas Anelka is awaiting the full written judgment of an independent commission on his offence at West Ham on December 28 after the three-man panel found him guilty and banned him for five games.

He and the FA, who were expecting to receive the document earlier this week but are still awaiting its delivery, must decide whether to appeal against the commission's rulings. The commission ruled that the 34-year-old was not anti-Semitic but found him guilty of making an anti-Semitic gesture when celebrating a goal at Upton Park.

Anelka insisted the salute was in support of his friend, the French comedian Dieudonne M'bala M'bala, the person who brought the quenelle to prominence.

The pair claim the gesture was anti-establishment, not anti-Semitic.

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Tribute to one of Baggies' greatest

ALBION have been mourning the death of former defender Stan Rickaby – and lamenting the loss of the final link to arguably their greatest team.

The right-back, who made 205 appearances and scored twice during five years at The Hawthorns, died in Australia at the age of 89.

The one-cap England international collected a 1954 FA Cup-winners' medal after playing in every round before missing out on the final due to injury. He was the last surviving member of the squad that went within a whisker of winning the League and Cup double and was dubbed the 'team of the century'.

Albion will pay tribute to the defender before Saturday's home game against Manchester United.

The club said in a statement: "Our thoughts are with Stan's family and friends."

Rickaby emigrated in 1969 to Australia, where he stayed for the rest of his life.

The Baggies' double-ambitions were thwarted by an injury crisis in the final weeks of the campaign before they finished runners-up to arch-rivals Wolves but they finished second and won the FA Cup with the team, which featured legends Ray Barlow, Ronnie Allen and Joe Kennedy, hailed as one of the Baggies' greatest.

Drop fear is dismissed

BOSS Paul Lambert today dismissed fears of relegation at Villa. He insisted he was never worried about the drop after Villa took a huge leap to safety.

Sunday's 4-1 win over Norwich put them seven points clear of the Premier League's bottom three.

"I never really look down," said Lambert. "People were saying last week that West Ham were well and truly out of it and all of a sudden we are level with them.

"We will try to get to the next team above us and I never look at it negatively, I always think we can win games."

"We are a young team and we are miles from where we want to be.

"But we are slowly but surely getting there and if they keep growing and being confident their careers will keep going.

'Soap opera' rap over troubled Albion season

Football

JAMES MORRISON has branded Albion's troubled season a 'soap opera'.

The Scotland midfielder admitted he was grateful to escape events at The Hawthorns to link up with his country for yesterday's friendly against Poland but insisted the Baggies are all "pulling together" for the cause.

The Albion player's concerns about coach Pepe Mel's methods were revealed last week, while more discontent led to the departure of Dave McDonough, the club's director of technical performance and scouting.

The Baggies sacked Steve Clarke in December while they have suspended striker Nicolas Anelka after he was handed a five-match FA ban for his 'quenelle' goal celebration.

And Morrison, speaking in Scotland, said: "There just seems to have been a lot of s*** going on. It does feel like a soap opera – you should try being involved in it. It's been one thing after another at West Brom with managers changing and people getting suspended.

"It's probably hassle that we didn't need. There was even talk of the new manager going last week.

"It's not been ideal but the lads have been great. We are all pulling together. But it's good for me to come away and join up with the Scotland squad.

"It's a different mindset – a different environment. That's good for your confidence."

Meanwhile, Albion goalkeeper Ben Foster was tipped to start for England at Wembley as the Baggies faced the potential loss of Billy Jones for their next three games.

Reports from the England camp claim Foster will line up for his country against Denmark as boss Roy Hodgson assesses potential alternatives to No.1 Joe Hart ahead of the World Cup.

But Jones faces three weeks on the sidelines with a hamstring tear, ruling him out of the vital Premier League clashes with Manchester United, Swansea and Hull. However, Albion are hopeful Stephane Sessegnon and Claudio Yacob will figure against United on Saturday (12.45pm) after returning to training.

Jones has been diagnosed with a hamstring tear, meaning a recovery period of up to a month from the time of the injury – the 1-1 draw with Fulham on February 22.

U-21 WIN MIRRORS SEASON OF RIVALS

Albion 0 Wolves 1

ALBION and Wolves served up a snapshot of their seasons in a junior Black Country derby played out of the region at Coventry's Ricoh Stadium.

A solitary goal from Wolves striker Bradley Reid settled an entertaining Under 21s run-through of the contest on Monday night which has been lost at senior level for the past two seasons.

And that says everything about the momentum of the old rivals' respective campaigns as a troubled Albion knuckle down to fight for Premier League survival while Wolves revel in a genuine spirit of re-birth under Kenny Jackett.

Competitive

The exultant shout at the final whistle of Wolves goalkeeper Jon Flatt, as his team repelled one final Baggies bid for an equaliser, showed how competitive the fixture remains even below first-team level.

Certainly match-winner Reid will be revelling in his first derby winner as it climaxed a stand-out performance from the 18-year-old striker recruited from Wrexham in the September of Stale Solbakken's regime – a "one for the future" deal.

Reid nagged away with pace, power and skill at Albion's central defence where the powerful Donervorn Daniels and Callum Jones were never able to relax in his presence.

There were other eye-catching performances, with left-back Jordan Cranston, support striker Sam Whittall, wide man Robbie Parry and the gifted Eusebio all impressing.

Football

For Albion, Liam O'Neill's composed holding play in midfield, with strong support from Aaron Birch, was a prominent feature.

Wolves, having so nearly caught Albion cold with a goal after 40 seconds when a Reid effort struck the woodwork from a Dominic Iorfa cross, claimed their winner with the striker's clinical header from a superb Cranston cross.

Albion missed their best chance of an equaliser in the last 10 minutes when a mis-hit Flatt kick gave Roofe his team's clearest chance of the night. But his attempt to chip the Wolves keeper was safely plucked down by Flatt.

Albion: Rose; Atkinson (Donnellan 90), Daniels, Jones, Gayle; O'Neil; Roofe, Birch (Francis 85), Nabi; Jones, O'Sulllivan (Ward 75). Subs not used: Palmer, Howkins.

Wolves: Flatt; Iorfa, Tank, Elokobi, Cranston; Jakobsson, Kosatrna, Eusebio (Kellerman 53), Parry; Whittal; Reid. Subs not used: Torras, Keita, Hause, Erdey.

Referee: Andy Hendley

Wolves' Eusebio Bancessi takes on Baggies' youngster Aaron Birch during the Under-21s match

Banbury crash to fifth loss

Banbury United 0
Stourbridge 4

Two goals apiece for Ben Billingham and Luke Benbow earned Stourbridge victory as Banbury crashed to a fifth successive league defeat.

Gary Hackett's men took the lead after 33 minutes with a poor clearance from Tom Ryan going straight to Sean Geddes who drilled in a low 20-yard shot that hit the base of Kwame Fordah's right-hand post before rolling along the goal-line for Billingham to tuck away.

The visitors doubled their lead five minutes later after Kyle Haynes played the ball forward through the right channel area and Billingham squared the ball across low for Benbow to net.

Stourbridge stretched their lead further on 58 minutes as the referee played a good advantage enabling Kayelden Brown to drive on before sending the ball crossfield to Drew Canavan and from his right-wing cross Benbow was able to head home.

Billingham added a fourth goal twelve minutes from time after a clearance by keeper Fordah was fed to him from Geddes.

Murphy retires after knee injury

BIRMINGHAM defender David Murphy is retiring due to a knee injury.

The left-back had surgery in November 2012 and returned in September 2013 for six games – scoring twice against Millwall – before a setback in October. Murphy, 30, said: "I wasn't able to sustain the heights of my previous form. I have no option but to retire."

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, March 6.

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